

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Strikers in Canada
confront police, scabs

— PAGES 2 AND 9

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Protests against the war continue in Yugoslavia

White House considers military intervention

BY DEREK BRACEY

Protests against the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina are spreading throughout Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, Washington and London continue to push for direct military intervention in the conflict.

Thousands of young people rallied outside the government offices in Montenegro to commemorate the victims of Sarajevo and denounce its destruction.

Led by students, the June 9 demonstration demanded that the Montenegro government stop issuing draft notices for new recruits for the Yugoslav Army.

The students carried candles and handed out badges saying, "Don't count on us." The government of Montenegro is allied with Serbia in the war in Yugoslavia.

The Belgrade-backed Serbian forces attempting to further their control of Bosnia have met stiff resistance from badly outgunned defenders of Sarajevo, the region's capital.

Maj. Sefer Halilovic, a former member of the Yugoslav Army who quit last September to protest the army's attacks on Croatia, commands the city's defense effort.

Not an ethnic conflict

He objects to characterizations of the fighting in Bosnia as an ethnic conflict.

"This is not a conflict of one ethnic group against another," Major Halilovic, a Muslim Slav, told the *New York Times*. "It's a war by extreme Serbian nationalists against the rest of the Bosnian population, who would like to live together in a mixed democratic society."

The major's deputy, Col. Jovan Dipjak, a Serbian and 30-year veteran of the Yugoslav Army, agreed. "It's a lie, an outright lie," he said, referring to the conflict as an ethnic war.

The forces defending Sarajevo are "what you see — a citizens' army," Major Halilovic told the *Times*.

He said among the members of the forces

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AP/Wide World Photos

Ten thousand students in Belgrade demonstrate June 15 to demand resignation of Serbia's president Milosevic. Slogans included opposition to war. Protest follows several antiwar actions in recent weeks.

U.S. Supreme Court decision undermines the right to vote

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 8 in favor of Hawaii's undemocratic ban on write-in voting.

The ruling undermines "a person's right to vote for the candidate of his or her choice even if that candidate is not on the ballot," said Alan Burdick in a phone interview from

Hawaii. Burdick filed a legal challenge to the ban in 1986 when he discovered that he would not be allowed to cast a write-in vote in the state.

The case came before the Supreme Court after Burdick's challenge was backed by a lower court and then reversed by a federal appeals court last year. The Supreme Court upheld the federal court in a 6-3 decision.

Burdick's appeal was presented by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). It explained in its brief that barring write-in votes is a basic violation of the First and Fourteenth amendments to the Constitution, provisions that guarantee freedom of expression and association.

"This case involves the most basic of constitutional rights," the appeal stated. "Hawaii officials deprive citizens of the right to express their dissatisfaction with the range of choices presented on the ballot and to vote, instead, for individuals of their own personal preference." It cited a number of court rulings defending the write-in ballot over the past two decades.

The appeal explained that the preprinted ballot was not introduced until the late 1800s. Prior to that, for almost a century, voters would simply write down the names of the candidates of their choice and turn them in at the polling place. Thus, all voting was by write-in ballots.

Only later did the government-printed ballot appear, together with various undemocratic requirements for parties other than the Democrats and Republicans to get on the ballot — including filing fees, petitions with the names of thousands of regis-

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Ross Perot threatens democratic rights

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

The level of support for the candidacy of Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot for U.S. president is a dramatic reflection of the incapacity of the two-party system to confront the deep social and political crisis of capitalism. The latest polls show that if the presidential election were held today Perot would receive the majority of votes.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Most commentators treat Perot with kid gloves, just as they treat Patrick Buchanan, the representative of an incipient American fascist movement, with great respect. But Perot's rise should be seen as an ominous sign by the labor movement and all supporters of democratic rights.

In a banner headline, *Business Week* described the Perot phenomenon as "The Biggest Challenge to the Two-Party System since the Civil War."

What does Perot represent? Several serious commentators have taken a stab at explaining what lies behind his ascendancy.

Charles Krauthammer of the *Washington Post*

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Castro speaks for world's toilers at Earth Summit

The recently concluded Earth Summit which drew delegations from 178 nations and was the largest gathering ever of world leaders, posed questions that were only answered in a clear way by Cuban president Fidel Castro.

Castro received the biggest applause as

EDITORIAL

he spoke up for the world's impoverished toilers, placing blame for the environmental disaster facing the world on the imperialist powers.

"They have poisoned oceans and rivers; they have contaminated the air. They have weakened and opened holes in the ozone layer and they have saturated the air with poisonous gases," said Castro to the plenary session of the conference. "It is not possible to blame the Third World nations for this, for only yesterday they were colonies. They still are spoiled and plundered by an unjust world economic order."

In its unceasing quest for profits, imperialism has plundered the world's resources while exploiting the labor of the world's workers and farmers, driving hundreds of millions into a life of extreme poverty, hunger, and disease.

Castro demanded a drastic redistribution

Continued on Page 14

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Panamanians protest Bush visit

President George Bush was forced to flee the platform where he was to give a speech in Panama City June 11, as police teargassed 200 demonstrators protesting his visit and the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989.

The previous two days, high school students blocked streets in the capital to protest the planned visit. "There was a massacre," said a 17-year-old protester, referring to the U.S. invasion.

"I live in Chorillo, and I know what happened," she shouted at approaching cars. The Chorillo neighborhood was burned to the ground as a result of attacks by U.S. forces during the invasion.

The latest demonstrations come on the heels of strikes and protests in other parts of the country against the economic crisis.

In April and May police clashed with unemployed demonstrators demanding increased public assistance. In early April striking transportation workers blocked access to and from the region of Baru, near the Costa Rican border.

INS settles rights suit

After a 14-year battle, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has agreed to inform immigrants accused of being in the United States illegally of their legal rights, including the right to call an attorney.

As part of the settlement of a class-action suit filed in 1978, the INS agreed to give written notice of these rights in the immigrant's language.

The lawsuit was initially filed by workers at a Los Angeles shoe factory that was raided in 1978. Sixty-six workers were arrested by the INS and not permitted to seek legal help. They were coerced into accepting immediate deportation.

Threat against Wichita clinic

A hand grenade was found outside the Women's Health Care Service's clinic in Wichita, Kansas, June 6. Earlier in the day pro-choice and antiabortion demonstrators held rallies outside the building.

Women's Health Care Services was one of two targeted during Operation Rescue's 46-day siege in Wichita last summer. The grenade, which did not contain powder or a fuse, was removed by the bomb squad.

Communist Party targeted

In an attack on the right to political association, Grover Norquist of Americans for Tax Reform, a rightist organization,



Militant/Ned Dmytryshyn
Gold miners on strike against Royal Oak Mines Inc. near Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories, Canada. Since the end of May, 240 miners, members of the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers (CASAW) Local 4, have been waging a militant fight against company-provoked violence and attempts to run the mine with replacement workers. Health, safety, and job security are central issues in dispute. Between January and April of this year there have been 81 accidents — a 33 percent injury rate. The company is also demanding no wage increase until the price of an ounce of gold rises to \$425.

recently filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission against Mikhail Gorbachev, Gus Hall, Angela Davis, and the Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA).

Newspaper reports have alleged that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, until its dissolution, funded the CPUSA with \$2 million a year. Norquist charges that the party failed to register as a foreign agent, exceeded Federal Election Commission contribution limits, and failed to report transfers of money across borders.

Charges of being a "foreign agent" have long been part of Washington's arsenal in its attempt to silence or restrict the rights of political parties in the workers movement.

Tel Aviv behind PLO killing?

Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat blamed agents from the Mossad, the Israeli equivalent of the CIA, for the killing of a high-ranking PLO official in Paris June 8.

Atef Bseiso, who was in charge of security for the PLO's Tunis headquarters, was

gunned down by attackers after midnight. The killers used silencers and bag attachments to catch spent shells so as to eliminate evidence.

The Mossad has often targeted PLO leaders abroad for assassination, a continuation of its policy toward Palestinians inside Israel. Several key PLO leaders have been assassinated in the last four years.

Israeli Army seals off Gaza Strip

"It's collective punishment to put pressure on the people," explained Nasser Ali, a Palestinian from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. "What kind of a democratic country punishes all the people because one of them killed a girl?"

He was referring to the sealing off of Gaza from Israel since May 24, after an Israeli teenager was stabbed to death near Tel Aviv by a Palestinian.

After two weeks of prohibiting Palestinians from leaving Gaza, the Israeli Army slightly relaxed the military rules to allow those 28 years or older to enter Israel to work, if they were employed at a site with at least 10 employees. Some 30,000 to 40,000 Palestinians normally leave Gaza each day to work in Israel, where they earn an average of only \$25 a day and fill jobs shunned by most Israelis.

The army measures, which angered Palestinians, are also questioned by many Israelis.

"There is no doubt," said former Gaza military commander Yitzhak Segev, "that a drawn-out closing of the strip will turn it into a drum of explosives."

Japan approves troop use abroad

Buoyed by their victory in the upper house of parliament — which passed a bill to permit Japanese troops to take part in United Nations "peacekeeping" efforts for the first time — some Tokyo government officials are already talking about sending a force to join the UN operation in Cambodia. The bill, which was approved by the upper house June 9, is expected to win easy approval in the lower house, where the ruling Liberal Democratic Party has a majority.

"Two years ago, nobody would have dreamed that Japan could pass this bill," said Yasunori Sone, a professor at Tokyo's Keio University. "But then came the Gulf War."

Tokyo attacks U.S. trade practices

A Japanese government advisory council described the United States as having the most unfair trade practices of the industrialized countries.

In a June 8 report the council pointed to "Buy American" laws and U.S. "dumping" of products at prices below cost as examples of U.S. violations of free trade.

The report recommends that Japan move away from negotiating directly with Washington toward bringing disputes through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the world organization that attempts to oversee commerce.

Unemployment, workweek rise

In May unemployment in the United States reached its highest level since 1984. At the same time the average length of the workweek for manufacturing grew by 12 minutes, to 41.3 hours, the highest level since 1966.

The *New York Times* noted that bosses are trying "to squeeze more production from existing" workers, rather than increase hiring.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, responding to questions about the figures, stated, "I don't think anyone questions the fact that the economy is improving in almost every sector."

Czechoslovakia gov't in disarray

No party won a majority in elections to Czechoslovakia's Federal Assembly in early June. Two mutually hostile parties — one based in the Czech republic, the other in Slovakia — emerged as the main forces after eliminating most of the more than 70 parties in the contest.

The right-wing Civic Democratic Party won about 30 percent of the vote and 83 out of 300 seats in the Parliament. Its Czech-based leader Vaclav Klaus wants to speed the transition to a market economy.

His main opponent, Vladimir Meciar, of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, is opposed to Klaus's austerity program. Meciar favors an independent Slovakia.

The two parties have been negotiating for a "temporary" national government, so far without success. — SETH GALINSKY

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Earth Summit features environment crisis

U.S. only capitalist power to reject treaty protecting endangered species

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during the first two weeks in June focused world attention on the horrendous conditions of life facing the vast majority of the world's people. Distorted development, superexploitation of workers and peasants, and the plundering of the environment, are the result of decades of world domination by a handful of imperialist powers.

The summit, officially known as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, involved some 35,000 participants and official delegations from 178 countries. It highlighted the rivalries between imperialist powers today and the increased political isolation of Washington internationally as a result of its anti-environmental stance.

The U.S. government refused to sign one of the central documents to come out of this conference — the biodiversity treaty, which was drafted by government representatives from 98 countries over the past 15 months and is designed to protect endangered plant and animal species. Some scientists estimate that a quarter of the existing 10 million species on earth could be wiped out over the next half-century.

Washington claims the biodiversity treaty would interfere with U.S. patent laws and business interests abroad by forcing multinational pharmaceutical companies that exploit resources in the rainforests to share part of their profits with the host country.

The Bush administration also succeeded in watering down a document limiting emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases by insisting that it not include any timetable or concrete goals.

"We cannot shut down the lives of thousands of Americans by going to extremes," said President George Bush in defense of Washington's anti-environmental stand.

Bush claims that these international environmental treaties pose a threat to U.S. jobs. "I have some responsibility for a cleaner environment," he said, "and also a responsibility to families in this country who want to work, some of whom can be thrown out of work if we go for too costly an answer to some of these problems. . . . If they don't understand that in Rio, too bad."

Washington also expressed its opposition to aspects of the Rio Declaration, a six-page statement of principles on environment and development. Michael Young, deputy undersecretary of state for economic affairs, explained that the administration objects to language in the declaration according poor nations "the right to development," and "appearing to suggest that the responsibility for environmental damage rests entirely with the developed countries."

Shortly before George Bush landed in Rio for an appearance at the conference the White House reversed its stance, stating the U.S. delegation was now prepared to sign despite reservations.

Interimperialist rivalry

Sensing an opportunity to make some political gains at the expense of Washington, Germany and Japan have taken their distance from the Bush administration's unpopular positions. "Germany and Japan are capitalizing on America's weak posture,"

writes the *Wall Street Journal*. "Almost every day, they make announcements or pursue initiatives that appear designed to upstage or isolate the U.S."

Bonn succeeded in getting the European Community to sign a statement setting targets and timetables for reducing carbon dioxide emissions to 1990 levels by the end of the century. Both Germany and Japan as

In a move to refurbish its image at the conference, the head of the U.S. delegation, William Reilly, announced that "the principal priority of the United States at this conference is better management and conservation of the world's forests," and offered \$150 million in new funds for 1993. Germany and Japan, however, stole some of Washington's thunder with their own



Nuclear waste in Washington State. Capitalism in its unceasing quest for profits has plundered the environment while exploiting workers and peasants worldwide.

well as Britain and Canada also announced plans to sign the biodiversity treaty, leaving the United States as the only major capitalist power opposed.

Conference organizers project that \$125 billion would be needed annually to assist poor countries in development and environmental projects, but funds on this scale are not forthcoming. Under discussion has been a plan to have rich nations commit 0.7 percent of their gross domestic product (GDP) annually by the year 2000. Germany and Britain, while agreeing in principle to this perspective, are opposed to setting a specific deadline.

The United States provides 0.21 percent of its GDP in foreign aid and Washington has refused to accept the 0.7 percent target. "The day of the open checkbook is over," stated Bush in defense of his position.

slightly higher offers of financial aid for protecting rain forests in Brazil.

Washington's concern for international forest preservation rings hollow when it comes to protecting ancient forests in the United States. Newly released government satellite photographs reveal that the evergreen forests of the Pacific Northwest where massive clear cutting has occurred are in danger of losing their biological vitality. "When you compare the situation in the Pacific Northwest to the Amazon of Brazil, the Northwest is much worse," stated Dr. Compton Tucker, who led the study.

Attacking environmental laws

In the months leading up to the Earth Summit conference, the Bush administration has been on a drive to gut environmen-

tal regulations in the United States as part of an ongoing attack on the health and well being of U.S. working people. In April, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan proposed elimination of an 85-year-old right to publicly appeal decisions by the U.S. Forest Service on land use and timber sales. Last month Bush gave the go-ahead to new rules allowing companies to increase air pollution from their factories without notifying the public.

In March, Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan canceled the public's long-established right to contest government decisions to grant grazing permits, mining leases, and oil exploration licenses.

Lujan has also been spearheading an effort to gut the Endangered Species Act passed by Congress in 1973. Lujan, who rejects Darwin's scientific theory of evolution, justifies his position by pointing to biblical stories. "I believe God created Adam and Eve, and from there, all of us came. God created us pretty much as we look today," asserted Lujan in a recent interview with *Time* magazine.

New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis commenting on the Bush administration's environmental record observed, "George Bush in 1988 . . . told us that he would be the environment President. His record entitles him, rather to be known as the pillage President."

Abysmal living conditions

Many newspaper accounts describe the Earth Summit debates and proceedings as a conflict between the "rich North" and the "poor South," or the "rich countries" and "developing" ones, but the meeting simply reflected something of the reality of the unbearable living conditions created by capitalism for billions of toilers worldwide.

A few of the statistics issued prior to the start of the Earth Summit speak for themselves. Some 1.7 billion people lack access to sanitation, while 1 billion lack clean water, states a report issued by the World Bank in May. The World Health Organization reports that 2.5 billion people suffer from illness resulting from insufficient or contaminated water and lack of sanitation. The UN has announced that 700 million people suffer from chronic malnutrition with more than 50 million threatened today by famine.

Judge refuses to order retrial of killer cop

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Public figures in the Samoan community here bitterly condemned the refusal of a state judge to order a retrial for a cop who killed two Samoan brothers.

They urged federal prosecution of Albert Skiles, the Compton city cop who won a mistrial when a jury deadlocked 9-3 in favor of acquitting him on manslaughter charges.

Earlier, in response to the mistrial verdict, 1,000 Samoans had marched and rallied in Compton.

Skiles had pumped 19 bullets into the two brothers and then pleaded self-defense. Witnesses said he shot the two men as they knelt on the ground.

He had come to the home of Pouvi Tualaulelei, 34, and his brother, Itali, 22, in response to a domestic dispute call.

As Superior Court judge John Reid presented his decision denying a new trial, Chief Ietitaia Tualaulelei, an uncle of the two victims, walked out of the courtroom and declared:

"You can't find justice in the America system, to put it bluntly. What I've seen today is American justice at its 'best.' Someone can commit murder and get away with it."

The uncle, who also is related to the royal family of Western Samoa, said the family would petition the State Department in an effort to win federal civil rights prosecution of Skiles. Western Samoa, the major part of the Samoan group of islands in the South Pacific, is an independent state. Eastern Samoa is a U.S. possession.

In Washington, the Western Samoan Embassy said it would aid in seeking such prosecution.

President Bush was called on to support the demand for federal action by Chief Tuauu Pele Faletofo, chair of the Committee for Justice for the Tualaulelei Brothers. He charged that the judge's decision "sends a message to the law enforcement community that it's OK to beat and slaughter our people."

He also called upon District Attorney Ira Reiner to appeal the judge's denial of a retrial. Reiner has indicated he will not make such an appeal.

In a June 6 editorial, the *Los Angeles Times* called for a federal probe.

The editorial noted that shortly after the Feb. 12, 1991, shooting, the FBI "opened a preliminary investigation which remains open. That is the first step in determining whether federal authorities will pursue a civil rights prosecution."

The family has already filed a civil damage suit in federal court, with Marvin Beli, a prominent lawyer, representing them.

Cop brutality meeting set for July 11

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota — Activists against police brutality here have issued a call for a national meeting to take place in this city on July 11 to discuss the next steps in the fight for justice for Rodney King.

The timing of this meeting had earlier been announced for June 13. But those responding to the call for the June meeting requested more time to prepare for the event and make travel arrangements.

A June 14 letter from the Twin Cities Justice for Rodney King Meeting Planning Committee notes, "The one thing that stands out in our discussions with activists in Minnesota as well as around the country, is that while there have not been massive actions against the verdict, there remains enormous anger at this injustice and willingness to act."

Chris Nisan, an organizer of the meeting

and Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the Minneapolis area, said that the groups and individuals involved in planning the meeting will have a "Justice for Rodney King" contingent in the North Minneapolis Juneteenth parade on June 20 and will be poster and leafletting all over the Twin Cities to build the July 11 gathering.

Norvell Laurent, a member of the St. Paul Police/Community Relations Task Force said that the July 11 meeting was "an occasion to gather people around the demand for federal prosecution of the cops who beat Rodney King and also against stepped-up police repression."

The location and times for the meeting will be available soon. For more information call (612) 377-5436, or write Justice For Rodney King: c/o Zion Baptist Church, 621 Elwood Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55411.

National March and Rally Democracy for Haiti!

Washington, D.C.
Saturday, June 27

10 a.m. Assemble
Upper Senate Park
(Constitution and New Jersey, near
Union Station)

11 a.m. March
to State Department and OAS

Sponsors include: DC Student Coalition
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Mete Men; New York Coalition for a Free
Haiti; Pledge of Resistance; National
TransAfrica Forum; Quixote Center;
Washington Office on Haiti; Washington
Peace Center

Swedish unionist: 'Stand united and fight back'

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year prison term in the state penitentiary in Fort Madison on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. For more information about the case or to

after spending three years in jail, and later won political asylum in Sweden.

María Llerena, a Cuban-born artist, also spoke. She related how a friend of hers from Africa was shot earlier this year by the so-called Laser Man, a killer who has shot several immigrants in Stockholm, so far killing one person and wounding six. By coincidence Llerena came upon her friend

Metal Workers Union. He explained that when Kate Kaku, Mark's wife, was in Sweden a couple of years ago she visited Alfa Laval.

Relating Curtis's fight to recent struggles by his union, Carlsson said, "Some time back the company told us we would be laid off. We protested this, organized morning meetings for all workers, and participated in demonstrations. Despite the threat of layoffs the company demanded we work overtime. Some younger workers at first agreed to this, then changed their minds."

"Then the company tried to sow divisions by singling out certain workers as 'troublemakers,' asking if workers had been 'threatened by Tony Carlsson and the other devils.' We countered this by discussing with everyone, fighting for unity."

He concluded, "You must stand united and fight back. You must give solidarity to get solidarity. Mark Curtis represents all this."

New Zealand lawyer: 'a case of injustice'

"This is a case of appalling and obvious injustice which we need to continue to fight." These were the remarks of civil libertarian Shirley Smith at a June 4 public meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, to win support for Mark Curtis.

Smith commented on the acquittal in Los Angeles of the four cops who beat Rodney King, and the fact that a Los Angeles judge had just ruled that there would not be a retrial of the cop who murdered two Samoans there. There is a significant Samoan population in New Zealand.

"These cases make it easier to

believe that Mark Curtis was framed, that such things happen," Smith explained. "At first I was dubious about the Mark Curtis case but now I have no doubt. It was a cop, who had previously been suspended for lying, on whose evidence he was convicted. Nothing materially linked Mark Curtis to the woman he was alleged to have raped."

Sam Buchanan, an activist for the unemployed, also spoke at the meeting. He had been present when police raided the People's Centre in Auckland, supposedly looking for explosives. After finding nothing, the cops decided to seize someone and in a resulting scuffle injured several of those present. Buchanan ended up in the hospital with serious injuries.

Buchanan laid a complaint with the police but was himself charged with assault on a policeman. His trial will be in August.

Felicity Coggan expressed support for Buchanan and other victims of police brutality.

She placed these cases in the context of the wars, racism, and depression which working people face in the world today, and explained how some forces opposed to working people going into action against the employers' antiunion offensive had joined the cops in campaigning against Mark Curtis because of the example he set as a rank-and-file fighter.

The meeting, which also heard student leader Rob Smissen, was chaired by Jocelyn Armstrong, former head of the Conference of Churches in Aotearoa. A two-page article on Mark Curtis in the Victoria University student newspaper *Salient* helped advertise the meeting. Labour member of Parliament

Elizabeth Tennet sent a message of support.

Kentucky activists endorse Curtis fight

Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Atlanta recently drove nine hours to Campton, Kentucky, at the invitation of the Peace and Justice Council of the Catholic Diocese of Lexington. The council is composed of Catholic nuns and lay workers active in rural literacy, outreach, and health programs throughout the mountainous region of southeastern Kentucky, where many coal mines are located.

After viewing the video entitled *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis* and discussing the case, the council voted to endorse the campaign in defense of Mark Curtis. Several members endorsed as individuals, and a total of \$235 was donated to the Mark Curtis Parole Now! Fund. One woman purchased the video and intends to continue showing it in Kentucky.

Curtis supporters also set up a table at the Human Rights Festival in Athens, Georgia, and participated in a national conference in Atlanta of the Alliance for Cultural Democracy, an organization of artists who are political activists. The video on Curtis's frame-up was shown to participants. It was also aired twice on prime time by a local cable TV station during the conference.

Anita Östling in Stockholm, Sweden; Janet Roth, member of the United Food and Chemical Workers Union in Wellington, New Zealand; and Marla Puziss in Atlanta; contributed to this column.

DEFENDING MARK CURTIS

contribute to the Mark Curtis Parole Now! Fund, write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines IA 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

If you have news or reports on activities in support of Mark Curtis from your city or country, please send them to the *Militant*.

Supporters of Mark Curtis gathered recently in Stockholm, Sweden, to celebrate Curtis's victory in his civil suit against the policemen who beat him after his arrest, and to raise funds for his defense campaign.

Several speakers addressed the meeting including Jatoy, a Pakistani political refugee, who spoke in support of Curtis. Jatoy, a leader of student demonstrations for democratic rights, had been framed-up and sentenced to death in Pakistan. Due to public protests the sentence was reduced to 14 years in prison. He was released

minutes after he was shot in broad daylight in downtown Stockholm. He was drenched in blood and screaming for help.

"I'm scared. I'm also Black and this killer still walks the streets. For weeks after it happened I was afraid even to go out. But I decided it's important to speak out and not be frightened into silence."

Carl-Erik Isacson, a leader of the Communist League, pointed out, "It is useful to remember that frame-ups and attacks on democratic rights were at their high point in the 1930s, right before the U.S. entered World War II. To defend their system the rulers must go to war against the working class in their own country, in other countries, and against each other. The victory for Curtis, he said, is a victory for all workers fighting to defend their rights and for youth fighting police brutality."

Another speaker was Tony Carlsson, a worker at the Alfa Laval factory in Tumba outside of Stockholm, and an activist in the

Iowa protests tell Klan, 'We don't want you here'

BY SARA LOBMAN AND RUTH NEBBIA

DUBUQUE, Iowa — More than 500 protesters held a counterdemonstration here May 29 against a downtown rally by the Ku Klux Klan.

The predominantly young crowd shouted, "Can the Klan" and "Racist, Sexist, Antigay, KKK go away." A march to Washington Park surrounded the area where about 30 Klan supporters had gathered to hear Thom Robb, national director of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

The majority of protesters were from Dubuque but contingents of antiracist fighters came from across Iowa. The Anti-Racist Mobilization from Iowa City brought 70 people. Fifteen came on a bus organized by KUCB radio — a Black community oriented radio station in Des Moines. Simultaneous with the protest downtown, 3,000 attended a "celebration of diversity" at a park outside of town.

Several of Robb's entourage were clad in white robes. The Klan rally drew some high school students from Dubuque. "I don't like the idea of them bringing Blacks in here," said Staci Baxter, one of the two young women holding up a Confederate flag. Klan supporters often raised their arms in a Nazi

salute to the cry of "White Power."

Dubuque became the center of national attention last year after a series of cross-burnings in response to a proposed city integration plan. Sixteen cross-burnings have been reported since July 1991. Dubuque, a city of 57,000 in northwestern Iowa, has only 331 Black residents.

Tom Churchill, a local businessman and leader of Citizens United for Racial Equality (CURE), which organized the May 29 protest, explained his group's decision to demonstrate downtown this time, instead of participating in the picnic on the city's outskirts. "I don't know how we're going to tell the Klan we don't want them here unless we go and tell them," Churchill said to 300 anti-Klan protesters preparing to march to Washington Park.

Churchill then asked the rally participants to avoid violent confrontations with the Klan. He explained that police had already told local media that they were not expecting violence from Klan supporters but were more concerned with the counterdemonstrators. Dozens of city and state police and county sheriff's deputies dressed in full riot gear and carrying shotguns and tear gas protected the Klan rally from both sides of a 5-foot-high barricade. Cops patrolled

through the counterprotest and were posted on the rooftops of surrounding buildings.

Several young people attending the anti-Klan event taunted the Klan members. Many others rattled sealed soda cans filled with pennies.

Some at the protest signed a banner, which said, "Iowa Union members against Racism." Those signing included members of the American Federation of Teachers, Communication Workers of America, the American Postal Workers Union, and the Service Employees International Union.

A week earlier the AFL-CIO and United Auto Workers Region 4 had participated in a press conference at the state capitol in Des Moines condemning the KKK's presence in Iowa.

A statement distributed by Cleve Andrew

Pulley and Sara Lobman, Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. Senate and Congress in Iowa, explained that the KKK is "emboldened by the policies of the two-party system which promotes, perpetuates, and condones racist and anti-working-class violence." The candidates explained the relationship between the violence of groups like the Klan and the violence of the cops. They called for "the broadest street mobilizations of workers, youth, and supporters of democratic rights" to respond to the Klan.

Sara Lobman is a member of Local 431 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union and works at the Monfort packinghouse in Des Moines, Iowa. Ruth Nebbia is a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and works at the Lortex plant in Des Moines.

Prosecutor lets off cops in beating case

BY NANCY WALKER

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — There is "absolutely no comparison" between the videotaped beating of two young Asian men by police here and the beating of Rodney King, declared the special prosecutor investigating a recent case of cop brutality in this city.

On February 9, an emergency response team of cops invaded the apartment of Feng Hua Zhang and Wai Shuen Wong. They kicked and punched the two young men, dragged them outside, and destroyed their home. Police later admitted they entered the wrong apartment on a "drug raid." A neighbor made a videotape of the events, which was viewed and discussed widely in Vancouver and across Canada.

Special prosecutor Glen Orris announced his finding May 28 that the Vancouver police team did not use "excessive or unreasonable force" and no criminal charges would be laid against the police. "There was no continual kicking and punching," Orris told reporters. "It was not a situation where they were kicking and punching and it went on and on and on."

Feng Hua Zhang and Wai Shuen Wong told the *Vancouver Sun*: "We aren't satisfied with the explanation given by police. They make it sound as if they were breaking down our door, beating us and spraying our faces with Cap-stun [a pepper spray] in order to protect us. But we did not feel protected, but attacked."

Victor Wong, spokesman for the Vancouver Association of Chinese Canadians, told reporters, "I am in shock. You guys just review that tape . . . and explain to me how an assault did not take place."

After the special prosecutor's announcement, a local Chinese-language radio station held a call-in show on the issue. Hundreds phoned in — the overwhelming majority to speak out in protest and to discuss how justice can be won for Feng Hua Zhang and Wai Shuen Wong.

The British Columbia government recently announced an independent commission of inquiry into policing in the province. Only days before, West Vancouver youth Daniel Possee was shot dead in his apartment by police in another supposed drug raid.



Thousands attended 'celebration of diversity' to protest Ku Klux Klan in Iowa.

'Militant' sales effort to continue through July 25

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Militant supporters have decided to continue the international circulation campaign for socialist publications through July 25, in order to keep up subscription sales at all the socialist campaign activities taking place this summer.

Socialist campaigners are currently petitioning in a number of states to place presidential and congressional candidates on the ballot. As the campaign newspaper of the socialist alternative in 1992, the *Militant* is proving attractive to many of the workers and youth signing petitions. Those wanting to know more about the socialist answers to Bush, Buchanan, Clinton, and Perot should sign up for the *Militant's* introductory subscription offer.

Continuing the international subscription drive will also help *Militant* supporters stay on a campaign footing as they build the International Youth and Socialist Campaign Conference scheduled for Oberlin, Ohio, August 5-9. [See ad on page 1]. Introducing youth and working people to the *Militant* goes hand in hand with political discussions about the importance of new *Militant* readers attending this international gathering where fighters can share experiences and prepare for the struggles to come.

International campaign trips

A highlight of the *Militant's* coverage in July will be reports on several international campaign trips. During the first two weeks of July *Militant* editor Greg McCartan and Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates will be visiting South Africa and reporting on the current stage of the fight to bring down the apartheid regime.

At the end of June SWP presidential candidate James Warren and *Perspectiva Mundial* editor Selva Nebbia will be reporting from Cuba. Currently *Militant* staff writer and young socialist leader Argiris Malapanis is in Latin America to attend a conference on Che Guevara in Argentina and a World Federation of Democratic Youth meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Continuing the subscription campaign

will also provide socialists active in the industrial unions further opportunities to sign up coworkers as *Militant* subscribers and endorsers of the campaign. Members of the United Transportation Union and Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union are closing in on their subscription goals. Those doing well should consider raising their goals as a contribution toward the overall circulation campaign effort.

Sales to meatpackers

From Des Moines, Iowa, which remains at the top of the subscription chart for the United States, United Food and Commercial Worker (UFCW) member Mitchel Rosenberg faxed in the following report: "The *Militant* has gotten a good response from UFCW members in Cherokee, Iowa, who recently concluded a three-week strike against Wilson Foods.

"The meatpackers wanted to discuss a wide range of political questions, not just those directly posed in the strike. On the picket line, issues such as abortion rights, unity among workers from different nationalities, and working-class political action were taken up.

"Socialists sold a total of 3 subscriptions and 25 copies of the *Militant*. At a plant gate sale the week following the settlement of the strike, workers bought 1 subscription and 18 single copies on their way out of the plant."

In Seattle *Militant* supporter Mark Downs, a member of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), has been actively circulating the paper among coworkers and has thus far sold 4 subscriptions.

A team of four *Militant* supporters from Toronto, Montreal, and Morgantown, West Virginia, have sold 3 subscriptions and more than 50 papers at mine portals, working-class communities, and political events in Nova Scotia in Canada.

Monica Jones filed the following report: "The team travelled to Glace Bay, Nova Scotia to attend Davis Day events. William Davis was a 37-year-old coal miner on strike when he was killed by police in 1925 on June 11. That day has become a holiday in the area because miners have always refused to work. Twelve *Militants* were sold at a concert attended by 3,000 people to raise money for the families of miners killed in the Westray mining disaster."

Team visits Tasmania

From Sydney, Australia, three *Militant* supporters flew to Tasmania to circulate the paper among workers striking the Associated Pulp and Paper Mills plant in Burnie. Craig Foster reports: "Supporters spent their time talking to strikers at the 13 picketed entrances. To introduce themselves, the team had back issues of the *Militant* with coverage of the recent Caterpillar workers strike in the United States, which they passed around to picketers, as well as an



Militant/Bob Buchanan

Selling the 'Militant' in London

album of selected coverage from the paper."

From Yellowknife, Northwest Territories in Canada Ned Dmytryshyn reports: "Seven *Militant* subscriptions and 7 single issues were sold to strikers at the Royal Oak Mines. The 240 gold miners, members of Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers (CASAW) Local 4, are fighting a company attempt to bust their union through the use of replacement workers, violence, and intimidation.

"Local president Bill Schram bought an introductory subscription so that members of the local could read the coverage of other

union struggles. He was particularly interested in the *Militant's* past coverage on the Caterpillar strike.

"On one picket line 4 strikers signed up for the *Militant* after a discussion on the facts of the strike, the deepening worldwide economic crisis, and the need for solidarity worldwide."

Finally, a reminder that with this issue the *Militant* begins its biweekly schedule for the summer. Distributors should increase their bundles to ensure that enough *Militants* are on hand for all the planned campaign and subscription teams.

Selling the socialist press to unionists

Union	% Sold (Goal)	Militant* Sold	New Int'l (Goal)	Sold
UNITED STATES				
ACTWU	45%	55	25	5
IAM	54%	110	59	6
ILGWU	59%	46	27	6
OCAW	90%	39	35	3
UAW	81%	75	61	3
UFCW	64%	90	58	9
USWA	75%	85	64	1
UTU**	95%	60	57	14
TOTAL	69%	560	386	47
SHOULD BE	63%	353	149	94
AUSTRALIA				
MFTU	100%	5	2	0
SHOULD BE	63%	3	2	1
BRITAIN				
AEU	0%	10	0	0
NUM	20%	10	2	0
RMT	82%	17	14	1
TGWU	60%	15	9	0
TOTAL	48%	52	25	1
SHOULD BE	63%	33	15	1
CANADA				
ACTWU	75%	8	6	1
CAW	40%	15	6	2
IAM	80%	5	4	1
USWA	25%	16	4	4
TOTAL	45%	44	20	8
SHOULD BE	63%	28	15	9
SWEDEN				
FOOD WORKERS	50%	4	2	3
METAL WORKERS	73%	11	8	2
TOTAL	67%	15	10	5
SHOULD BE	63%	9	6	4

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MFTU — Metal Trades Federation of Unions; NUM — National Union of Mineworkers; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers' Union; TGWU — Transport and General Workers' Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; USWA — United Steelworkers of America.

* Includes subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

** Raised goal



Militant/Dan Fein

Campaigning in Miami

Sales Drive Scoreboard

Areas	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		L'inter-nationale		New International		Total	
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Des Moines, IA	130	101	78%	25	19	2	1	40	12	197	133
Seattle	120	90	75%	35	20	3	3	25	22	183	135
Los Angeles	180	133	74%	100	72	4	1	110	66	394	272
Salt Lake City	130	92	71%	20	8	2	0	30	9	182	109
New Haven, CT	10	7	70%	2	1	0	0	3	0	15	8
Philadelphia	85	58	68%	20	22	3	0	30	12	138	92
Birmingham, AL	80	51	64%	5	1	2	0	40	2	127	54
Pittsburgh	90	57	63%	5	4	2	0	30	3	127	64
Twin Cities, MN	140	88	63%	20	12	2	0	30	15	192	115
Washington DC	130	81	62%	20	22	10	0	55	27	215	130
Chicago	150	93	62%	35	17	5	0	70	25	260	135
Portland	10	6	60%	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	6
Houston	80	48	60%	20	13	2	0	20	6	122	67
St. Louis	100	59	59%	5	1	2	0	25	1	132	61
Greensboro, NC	80	46	58%	8	6	2	1	15	0	105	53
Atlanta	90	51	57%	8	7	2	1	30	14	130	73
Morgantown, WV	80	45	56%	3	3	2	0	30	7	115	55
San Francisco	150	83	55%	50	9	8	0	70	38	278	130
Baltimore	110	54	49%	12	7	3	2	30	5	155	68
Detroit	140	65	46%	10	3	2	0	30	17	182	85
Boston	135	62	46%	40	29	15	2	50	22	240	115
Newark, NJ	160	73	46%	50	10	15	4	70	22	295	109
Miami	110	42	38%	30	19	15	15	45	27	200	103
New York	250	93	37%	100	15	20	3	110	34	480	145
Cleveland	90	29	32%	10	1	2	1	20	8	122	39
Cincinnati*	39	11	28%	3	0	0	0	5	2	47	13
Wilmington, DE	10	2	20%	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2
Ft. Madison, IA	5	1	20%	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
U.S. TOTAL	2,884	1,621	56%	636	321	125	34	1,013	396	4,658	2,372
AUSTRALIA											
BEELIUM*	45	30	67%	14	8	1	0	10	12	70	50
BRITAIN	6	5	83%	2	1	12	1	8	4	16	11
Sheffield	50	32	64%	3	1	2	0	25	8	80	41
London	80	47	59%	6	1	2	0	40	14	128	62
Manchester	50	29	58%	2	0	1	0	30	18	83	47
BRITAIN TOTAL	180	108	60%	11	2	5	0	95	40	291	150
CANADA											
Vancouver	90	71	79%	15	8	5	3	30	15	140	97
Montreal*	75	47	63%	20	19	30	12	60	30	185	108
Toronto	90	46	51%	20	13	5	2	45	8	160	69
CANADA TOTAL	255	164	64%	55	40	40	17	135	53	485	274
FRANCE											
ICELAND	5	1	20%	2	1	15	5	5	5	27	12
MEXICO	20	14	70%	1	0	1	0	5	1	27	15
NEW ZEALAND	1	1	100%	5	4	0	0	0	0	6	5
Auckland	55	49	89%	5	1	1	0	13	6	74	56
Wellington*	50	44	88%	1	0	1	0	10	5	62	49
Christchurch	40	30	75%	1	0	1	0	10	1	52	31
Other N.Z.	4	4	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
N.Z. TOTAL	149	127	85%	7	1	3	0	33	12	192	140
PUERTO RICO											
SWEDEN*	1	0	0%	5	5	0	0	2	0	8	5
TOTAL	3,610	2,132	61%	768	405	205	60	1,321	540	5,898	3,142
SHOULD BE	3,500	2,205	63%	750	473	200	126	788	788	3,591	3,591
*raised goal											

Socialists campaign with 'big ideas'

BY SELVA NEBBIA

With a board in one hand and a pen in the other, in front of literature tables with big signs that read: 'Help get the socialist alternative on the ballot,' supporters of the Socialist Workers 1992 campaign are out talking to people in cities across the country. They are involved in an aggressive petitioning effort to get James Warren for U.S. president, and Estelle DeBates for vice-president, on the ballot in some 25 states.

"We are out to meet people who are willing to fight," explained Melissa Harris. "When I'm campaigning, I tell people we are fighting for a society organized in our interests, we are battling against the system that creates more hardships for working people. Most of those we talk to say, 'Sure, I'll sign that, we need an alternative.'" Harris, who is now helping to get the socialist candidates on the ballot in Ohio, was part of the campaign effort that collected more than 5,000 signatures for the socialist alternative in Florida.

Many join petitioning effort

Margaret, 27, left her job in St. Louis to join a petitioning team in Chicago. When out in the streets, she explains, "I find a lot of interest in the idea of fighting for justice for Rodney King. There is also a lot of doubt that anything can be done to change the system."

"I tell people who are skeptical that our candidates aren't going to do a thing for them," Margaret said. "The challenge is to get people like me and you out on the streets to change the system, like they are doing in South Africa." The young campaign volunteers who form the core of the drive are hoping to collect 30,000 signatures before the June 20 deadline to put the socialist ticket on the ballot in Illinois.

Many young people who run into the

socialist campaign decide not only to sign the petitions but to join in the effort as well.

In Florida, Harris explained, three young people who met the campaign over the last few weeks are packing their bags to join the effort in other states. "Two of them are college students, and one is a high school student who just looked us up in the phone book," said Harris.

Emily Wood, 17, is one of the Socialist Workers candidates for Congress in the 2nd District in Cincinnati. Wood just graduated from high school and since the first week of May has been involved in the petitioning effort.

"I was surprised at how well things go. There are very few negative responses," Wood said in a phone interview. "While many people see Perot as an alternative, most think that no other candidates offer a way out of the crisis we face today. And, when you spend time talking to those who say they support Perot, you soon find out they know little about him and are willing to hear what you have to say."

On June 1, campaign supporters in Cincinnati filed more than 1,000 signatures, well over the 516 required, to get Valerie Libby and Mark Gilsdorf, candidates for state representative, on the ballot. They are now involved in the effort to collect 5,000 signatures to get the national slate of Warren and DeBates on the ballot in Ohio. Wood and Brian Taylor, 18, are both running as write-in candidates for Congress.

'Communism not dead'

DeBates made recent campaign stops in Florida, Ohio, and Massachusetts. "U.S. Marxist's campaign says that communism is not dead," read the headline of a Spanish-language Miami paper that interviewed DeBates during her stop in that city. The article, prominently placed, explained the can-



Militant/Alicia Merel

Petitioning to put socialist candidates on ballot in Greensboro, North Carolina.

didate's position "in solidarity with the Cuban revolution, demanding an end to the embargo and the establishment of normal diplomatic relations with the Fidel Castro regime."

Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign petitioned all over the Miami area, selling the *Militant* and its Spanish language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial*.

During a campaign stop in New York, Estelle DeBates explained why socialists are petitioning to get on the ballot. "We need to challenge the undemocratic laws of the Democratic and Republican parties that in effect try to make other parties seem illegal," she said. "I explain that this is a violation of their right to make a choice. In general, many people I've run into respond well to the idea that we have a democratic right to be on the ballot. But most people

sign the petitions because they really do want to see us on the ballot."

DeBates related some of her recent experiences on the campaign trail.

"In Massachusetts, we campaigned and petitioned in front of Malden Mills, a textile plant near Boston," DeBates said, "where we have a number of supporters and where 28 workers have subscriptions to the *Militant*."

"We set up a table with revolutionary literature and campaign material, and spoke with workers as they came in and out of work," explained the candidate. "The work force there is from many countries including the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and all over the Caribbean. Workers expressed concern over questions such as the denial of the right of asylum to Haitian refugees, wages, and the increasing use of part-time workers with no rights. Many were interested in what we had to say and signed to get us on the ballot."

Relating the attitudes of people she has encountered while campaigning, DeBates said, "My main experience has been that people recognize that there are big problems in the United States and in the rest of the world. People are looking for big ideas, they are attracted to radical ideas. Our campaign explains the reactionary positions of the rulers of this country who try to make us pay for their crisis. We point to the importance of the resistance of workers around the world, which stands in the way of the rulers being able to roll on to World War III."

"We explain to people that workers will have their chance to take control of society and reorganize it for the benefit of the vast majority. Youth and working people in general find this very attractive."

Seattle socialist gets message out widely

BY KATHLEEN WHEELER AND ANNA SCHELL

SEATTLE — Socialist Workers candidates and their supporters here have participated in a wide range of debates, rallies, and protest activities over the last six weeks. The socialist campaign is reaching every corner of the state and beyond.

The Socialist Workers campaign is running Mark Severs, a ramp worker at Alaska Airlines and member of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 2202, for U.S. Senate. David Warshawsky is the socialist candidate for U.S. Congress and Kathleen Wheeler, a switchman at the Burlington Northern railroad and member of United Transportation Union (UTU) Local 1024, is running for governor of Washington.

In a debate sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists, Severs faced off against eight of his Democratic and Republican opponents. Initially, the sponsors tried to rescind their invitation to the socialist candidate. After Severs won support from the other candidates and media panelists, the organizers agreed to include him.

The socialist was asked his opinion of the proposed free-trade agreements. "Neither so-called free trade nor protectionist measures are in the interests of working people anywhere," Severs said. "Both of these measures lead to trade wars; trade wars lead to shooting wars."

When asked his views on abortion, Severs pointed to the fact that socialist candidate Kathleen Wheeler was in Buffalo, New York, that day, participating in the defense of abortion clinics threatened by the right-wing forces of Operation Rescue. "The Socialist Workers campaign supports a woman's right to choose," he explained. "Defending women's rights is essential to overcoming the divisions the rulers foster within the working class."

During the discussion period, the candidates were asked where they stood on sanctions against Libya. All of Severs's opponents endorsed U.S. sanctions, including Democrat Patricia Murray, who said, "But we must be careful because innocent children are hurt."

Severs condemned the sanctions. "These moves are part of the bipartisan drive toward war," he said. "The U.S. government hopes to use sanctions to pave the way for direct

military intervention against Libya."

The debate was covered by the *Seattle Times* and Channel 5 TV. The coverage prompted one woman to call the campaign headquarters the next day to offer her support. "I'm fed up with the Democrats and Republicans," she said.

The *Seattle Times* carried an article on the three socialist candidates after a press conference launching the campaign. The candidates have been interviewed by *The Olympian* newspaper, the *Wall Street Journal*, and public radio station KUOW in Seattle. Initially, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* excluded Severs from its week-long special feature on the senatorial race. More than a dozen coworkers of Severs' called the newspaper to ask why the socialist candidate was not included.

Steve Johnston, vice-president of IAM Local 2202, spoke to the *Post-Intelligencer* reporter for more than 30 minutes, encouraging him to give equal space to Severs' campaign. The reporter argued that Severs was not entitled to the coverage because he was not a "viable candidate."

Johnston objected saying, "That's not for you to decide. How will he become a well-known candidate if he isn't given the same exposure in the press as the big-money candidates? It doesn't matter what political party he's in, he deserves equal press." Two days later, the paper's city editor called the campaign headquarters and scheduled an interview with Severs.

On May 19, Severs addressed his local union meeting. IAM Local 2202 organizes airline workers at Alaska and Trans World Airlines in Seattle.

Severs spoke to the need for all unionists to demand that the Los Angeles cops who beat Rodney King be indicted on federal civil right charges.

The socialist candidate also explained the need for unions to reject the nationalist campaigns of "Buy American" and "America First" and to "reach out to our brothers and sisters around the world."

Severs talk was met several times with applause and friendly questions at the end. One coworker, an airplane cleaner, asked, "Why is it that the international leadership of our union endorses candidates like Bill Clinton and not you?"

Severs answered that "the top labor offi-

cialdom today looks to the cops, courts, and Congress and not to the only force on earth that will defend workers' interests and rights — people like us here in the room today. We have to reject the notion that unions should deal solely with contractual issues, and we should use the power of the unions to link up with fighters for Black rights, women's rights, and against the U.S. drive toward war."

One of the liveliest discussions came after Severs addressed an assembly of 500 students at Garfield High School. The meeting featured the socialist candidate and Fred Dube of the African National Congress. It was organized by a campaign supporter who is a student there. Thirteen students signed up to work with the campaign.

Join the socialist alternative in 1992

Help put the socialist candidates on the ballot Contribute to the \$75,000 campaign fund



Illinois: May 23-June 21

Washington, D.C.: July 4-August 4

New York: July 7-Aug. 1

Alabama: July 11-Aug. 1

New England: June 6-July 18

Petitioning volunteers are also needed in Iowa, Minnesota, N. Dakota, S. Dakota, Oregon, Washington State, Delaware, Utah, Wisconsin, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Louisiana.



- ☐ I want to join a petitioning team in _____.
- ☐ Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____.
- ☐ Please send me _____ campaign brochures at 10¢ each. Enclosed is \$_____.
- ☐ I want to attend the international youth and socialist campaign conference.
- ☐ I want to join the Socialist Workers Party.

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Age _____

Clip and mail to: Socialist Workers 1992 National Campaign, 191 7th Ave, New York, NY 10011.
Tel: (212) 675-6740. Or contact campaign supporters in your area. (See page 12).

Paid for by the Socialist Workers 1992 National Campaign Committee

U.S. Supreme Court decision undermines right to vote

Continued from front page
 tered voters, and restrictive deadlines.
 The Supreme Court majority opinion, written by Judge Byron White, asserted that while the right to vote "is of the most fundamental significance," it is not "absolute." Hawaii's write-in prohibition, it stated, "imposes only a limited burden on voters' rights to make free choices and to associate politically through the vote."

The ruling supported the Hawaii officials' argument that the write-in ban was justified to discourage "sore losers" and frivolous candidates, and to ensure "stability."

Court: late decisions discouraged

The ACLU brief had raised the fact that write-in voting allows a citizen the right to consider political issues and candidates that arise after the deadlines for ballot qualification — often many months before the election — and that might change his or her view of the available candidates. The Court dismissed this, saying, "An interest in making a late rather than an early decision is entitled to little weight."

The Supreme Court claimed that it is easy to get on Hawaii's primary election ballot, citing the fact that only 15 to 25 signatures are required to appear on the primary ballot for most offices.

The dissenting opinion filed by Judge Anthony Kennedy, however, pointed out that anyone seeking to get on the ballot as an independent in that state must submit petitions with the names of 1 percent of registered voters five months before the primary elections. It noted that only eight candidates running as independents have gotten on the ballot for Hawaii's general

elections in the past 10 years. Because the dominant Democratic Party often runs unopposed, it added, up to 30 percent of the state's voters cast blank ballots out of dissatisfaction with the existing choices.

Hawaii's election laws, it stated, "impose a significant impediment to third-party or independent candidacies."

The minority opinion cited the "friend of the court" brief filed by the Socialist Workers Party in support of Burdick's appeal. The brief was filed by SWP general counsel Edward Copeland, of the noted constitutional rights firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky and Lieberman.

The court brief notes that "the Socialist Workers Party has from its inception been opposed to restrictions on the franchise" and has waged numerous legal battles to strike down restrictions on write-in voting and other undemocratic ballot access laws.

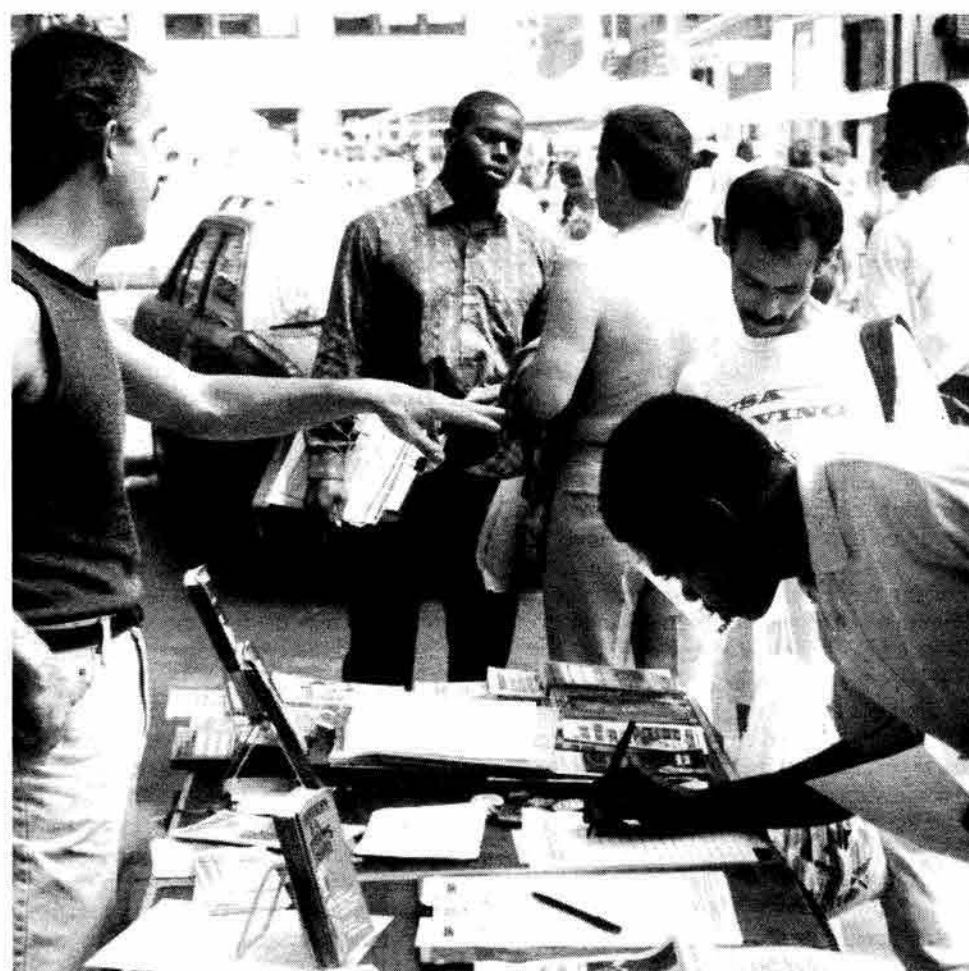
It points out that the party has run many election campaigns since 1938, the vast majority of them write-in candidates. Between 1988 and 1990 alone, about 210 Socialist Workers candidates were barred from the ballot and ran write-in campaigns instead.

In a phone interview, Copeland commented that the Supreme Court upheld not simply a tightened restriction, but "a total ban on write-in voting." Such a prohibition, he said, "closes up the ability of people to affect and participate fully in politics."

Encourages further restrictions

The Court's ruling, he added, "is going to invite other states to further restrict the right to cast a write-in vote."

Besides Hawaii, the states of Indiana,



Militant/Marc Lichtman
Petitioning to place socialist candidates on the ballot in New York in 1991. Socialist Workers Party has long history of opposing restrictions on ballot access.

Oklahoma, and Nevada ban write-in voting, and 32 other states restrict it in some form.

During the current U.S. election campaign two Republican presidential contenders, Patrick Buchanan and David Duke, were denied primary election ballot spots in several states. Democrat Paul Tsongas was almost knocked off the New York primary ballot in an unsuccessful challenge by the New Alliance Party.

In a statement, Socialist Workers presidential candidate James Warren called the court decision "a blow to the constitutional right of people to express their views and associate politically through voting."

Warren remarked that the existing election laws are designed to make it difficult for parties outside of the ruling Democrats and Republicans to get on the ballot, forcing them to run write-in campaigns. The court ruling, he said, "will place even more undemocratic restrictions on the ability of working-class and other parties to have a

voice in the election campaign."

The ability to run a write-in campaign, he continued, "gives such parties a measure of legitimacy and legality otherwise not available. It opens up more access to media coverage, debates with other candidates, and participation on other public platforms."

"Working people need the greatest possible ability to hear, exchange, and discuss different political views. This is more true today as we face a worldwide depression and the ruling billionaire families of the United States and their rivals abroad drag us closer to a third world war."

Warren stressed that "working people need to keep fighting to defend the write-in ballot and other democratic rights that come under attack from the rich. We must use these rights in order to hammer out a political course of action in the interests of workers and farmers worldwide, to fight the catastrophe that capitalism is bringing down on humanity."

Meat-packers, auto workers meet socialist candidates

BY LIZ ZIERS

NEW YORK — Socialist Workers candidates Estelle DeBates for vice president and Ed Warren for U.S. Senate from New York brought their campaigns to the meatpacking district of Manhattan June 11, where they met with five St. James Foods workers on their lunchbreak at a local coffee shop. The plant is organized by United Food and Commercial Workers Local 174.

An Ecuadoran worker asked why the socialist campaign isn't more broadly known. DeBates explained that the news media, consisting of major businesses owned by

members of the ruling class, has no interest in publicizing a campaign which actively opposes capitalist wars and racism. "That's why it's so vital that we have our own papers, the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and that people like you subscribe to them and help us get them out," she said.

The coffee shop cook and dishwasher stopped to listen as DeBates and Warren responded to a worker's question about the case of Mark Curtis. "People anywhere in the world who lead struggles, like Mark Curtis, are feared by the rulers and instantly become their enemies," said DeBates. "That's why they framed him up. That's why continuing his struggle for justice is important to anyone who wants to fight for their rights."

Warren explained that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) had raided the plant in which Curtis worked only days before his arrest. Curtis's speaking out for the rights of immigrant coworkers targeted by the INS, was what provoked the bosses and cops of Des Moines.

DeBates joined a team of campaign supporters collecting signatures to get on the ballot in New Jersey June 12. The socialist campaign received permission from Ford Motor Company in Edison, New Jersey, to campaign for two hours at the employee entrance during shift change.

DeBates, Ed Warren, and Simone Berg, the Socialist Workers candidate for 6th Congressional District in New Jersey, were able to speak with several hundred workers at the plant, which is organized by United Auto Workers Local 980.

A few recognized DeBates from reading the *Militant* but for most it was the first introduction to the campaign. Eighty workers signed ballot petitions and two filled out campaign endorsement cards. A subscription to the *Militant* and another to *Perspectiva Mundial* were bought, along with nine single issues of the *Militant*.

Vivian Sagner, a member of UAW Local 980 in Edison, New Jersey, contributed to this article.

Ravenswood workers approve contract

BY LINDA JOYCE

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia — Locked-out members of USWA Local 5668 have approved a three-year contract with Ravenswood Aluminum, ending a 19-month struggle to win their jobs back. The contract was approved by a vote of 1,287 to 181.

"We consider this a victory for unions everywhere," said Johnny Lynch, a member of Local 5668 and a millwright with 35 years experience at Ravenswood. "The company set out to bust this union and they did not succeed. We think this is a good contract except for the job combinations, but we can live with it. People are jubilant."

After the announcement June 12, there was a celebration at the union hall, and picket shacks were dismantled. Gone also from the picketlines are the white vans with Vance security goons inside.

In the early hours on June 29, the scabs are due to leave and the steelworkers will go back in. The Women's Support Group will lead a march to take the steelworkers to the gate that day.

Socialist candidates plan trips to South Africa, Britain, Cuba

The effort to raise \$75,000 for the Socialist Workers 1992 campaign by July 1 is off to a good start. More than \$8,660 in contributions have been collected so far. Leading in donations are campaign supporters in New York and Los Angeles.

"Unlike Bush, Clinton, and Perot, the socialist campaign does not receive, or ask for, funds from the owners of large corporations," notes Greg McCartan, national campaign director. "We look to workers and young people, fighters in defense of abortion rights, and opponents of police brutality and U.S. war moves around the world to back the socialist alternative in 1992."

The fund-raising will pay for upcoming trips by the socialist candidates, James Warren for U.S. president and Estelle DeBates for vice-president. Warren will be traveling to Cuba to learn first-hand of the challenges facing the revolution today and to discuss developments in world politics with Cuban revolutionaries.

DeBates will be traveling to Britain and to South Africa, where the African National Congress is planning strikes and mass demonstrations to hasten the end of apartheid.

Volunteers around the United States are petitioning to place Warren and DeBates on the ballot in 25 states. Part of the funds raised will finance teams going on the road petitioning, and campaign literature such as the national campaign brochure that has just been printed.

Send your contribution today! Make checks out to: Socialist Workers 1992

Campaign, 191 7th Ave., New York, NY 10011.

Contributions to the 1992 Socialist Campaign

As of June 13:

City	Goal	Received
Atlanta	\$2,800	785
Baltimore	2,300	0
Birmingham	2,200	470
Boston	3,000	445
Chicago	3,500	0
Cincinnati	700	0
Cleveland	2,000	0
Des Moines	2,000	0
Detroit	2,200	0
Greensboro	1,600	50
Houston	2,700	625
Los Angeles	5,500	1,500
Miami	2,000	230
Morgantown	2,000	200
New Haven	700	30
New York	9,000	1,640
Newark	7,000	0
Philadelphia	2,500	0
Pittsburgh	2,100	850
Portland	N/A	500
Salt Lake City	3,000	0
San Francisco	5,000	525
Seattle	2,000	0
St. Louis	3,000	100
Twin Cities	3,600	0
Washington, D.C.	2,700	710
TOTALS:	75,100	8,660

Communists in Canada combine forces to win new young fighters to movement

BY PAUL MAILHOT

TORONTO — "Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of young people throughout the world are shaken up and outraged by the increasingly blatant horrors of the capitalist system — by its moral decay, by its brutality and repression, and by its frame-up of those who fight against it. As a result, more and more young people are becoming involved in politics," explained Steve Penner, addressing the recent fusion convention of the Communist League and Young Socialists of Canada held in Toronto May 30-31.

Penner's report opened the convention discussion on the world political situation and how to respond to growing opportunities to win new young forces to the communist movement. Central to this discussion was the proposal put forward by a joint meeting of the Communist League Central Committee and leaders of the Young Socialists to combine forces into one organization.

Significant discussion on the fusion perspective had already been held in the four cities where the Communist League and Young Socialists center their activities: Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, and Quebec City. Coming out of those discussions the two organizations agreed to begin functioning as a common movement for the three weeks prior to the convention, through joint leadership committees and meetings.

The convention was attended by 170 people, including 48 delegates. The majority of delegates were industrial workers and union members. A significant number were students.

Some 80 members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party from the United States made the trip to Toronto to observe the convention and participate in classes and informal discussions. Leadership delegations came from the communist movement and young socialists in Britain, Sweden, the United States, and New Zealand.

Also attending as special guests were James Warren and Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. president and vice-president. They were in Toronto and

Montreal the previous week, campaigning and helping to build the convention. Warren and DeBates spoke at a public campaign rally on the opening night of the convention.

Marc-André Éthier, a leader of the Young Socialists from Montreal, welcomed delegates and friends. "In the last two years we've seen a growing interest in our movement on the part of young people," he said. "The goal of the fusion we are going to discuss here is to reach out to these young people and win them to the working-class struggle and the communist movement."

Penner, executive secretary of the Communist League prior to the convention, pointed to recent political developments that reflected the continuing crisis of the world system of capitalist exploitation:

- The overthrow of the dictatorial military leadership in Thailand after tens of thousands of students, drawing in workers and layers of the middle class, organized massive mobilizations undaunted by fierce repression.

- The bloody war in Yugoslavia and the determination of imperialist rulers in Washington and Ottawa to deepen their involvement through economic sanctions similar to those imposed against Iraq leading up to the Gulf War. U.S. president George Bush and Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney are pushing for direct military intervention through so-called peacekeeping troops, of which Canada already has 1,200 deployed.

- The collapse of Toronto-based Olympia & York, the world's largest commercial landlord and real estate developer. Canadian banks have finally admitted that their losses will exceed \$3 billion from the downfall. These and other losses could lead to a serious banking crisis.

- The Westray Coal mining disaster on May 9, which left 26 workers dead, and the subsequent crisis in the Nova Scotia provincial government as the criminal negligence of the company and the government became known.

- The failure of yet another round of talks by capitalist politicians in Canada to

achieve a constitutional agreement on "national unity" — in effect, a pact aimed at maintaining the oppression and super-exploitation of the French-speaking nationality and Native peoples.

Increasing conflict

"We are living in a world of increasing numbers of inter-imperialist conflicts, wars, and stepped-up attacks on working people by the bosses and their governments," explained Penner.

"We are also living in a world where the framework of capitalist politics is marked by sharp sudden shifts and unexpected developments from Thailand to Los Angeles; where a mining accident can rapidly lead to the governmental crisis of an entire province; where we see the rise of ultrarightist and incipient fascist forces like Patrick Buchanan in the United States and the Confederation of Regions Party in Canada."

Penner noted that there is also resistance to the political course of the capitalist parties and the employers' offensive. He pointed to public sector workers in Germany; Caterpillar strikers in the United States; and National air flight attendants and coal miners in both Nova Scotia and British Columbia, Canada, as workers involved in battles that show this continuing resistance.

Young people especially have demonstrated a willingness to protest against the growing crimes of capitalism, he pointed out. Youth have been in the forefront of demonstrations against police brutality and the Rodney King verdict from Minnesota to Montreal and from Toronto to Berlin.

Also significant was the victory of abortion rights fighters against Operation Rescue in Buffalo. "It is an important fact that this fight happened," said Penner. "Right-wing anti-abortion forces were defeated by organized and mobilized political action in the streets. This struggle points a way forward for working people."

"It also showed us that, prior to major class battles or the rise of mass social movements, young people are ready to act politically."

Why a fusion is necessary

Convention delegates took note that although fights like the one in Buffalo, struggles against police brutality, and some important strikes continue to present opportunities, the communist movement is still weighed down heavily by the continuing retreat of the labor movement.

The refusal of the union officialdom to lead workers in struggle, and the absence of new revolutionary victories capable of showing that workers and farmers can take power and build socialism, have made it increasingly difficult to develop revolutionary socialist youth organizations in Canada and in other countries. Penner explained that young socialists are affected to a greater degree by the retreat of the labor movement, as they are less able to draw on the lessons and continuity of past struggles to help understand the temporary nature of this retreat.

Leaders of the Communist League and Young Socialists came to the conclusion that as a common movement — but as separate organizations — they would not be able to rise above the difficulties each of them faced in recruiting and integrating young people into the revolutionary movement.

"It's only by merging our forces and combining our strengths that we will be able to take advantage of the political opportunities that are beginning to unfold," Penner explained.

International working class

Convention delegates noted that young people becoming involved in political actions and protests today face a radically different world than at any time in the past 60 years. Young fighters no longer look to Moscow as an example and as the way forward to socialism. The world is more closely tied together as a result of the internationalization of capital and the massive immigration of working people.

Every imperialist country has been transformed with the migration of millions from Third World countries, among them many

working-class fighters. This reality allows workers more and more to see themselves as part of an international class.

It is more necessary than ever to build multinational parties rooted in the working class, Penner explained. Only such parties can fight to overcome the national divisions that are promoted by the bosses to weaken the struggle for power.

"But proletarian parties must also be multigenerational," he said. "They have to braid together the different political experiences of older and younger members in a common movement if they are going to be able to maintain and deepen communist continuity. This is also necessary in order to win new generations of fighters to the



Militant/Helen Nelson
Speakers address convention: Two of youth leaders elected to Central Committee of Communist League, Marc-André Éthier (top) and Daphne Wenham (center); Steve Penner (bottom).

Youth: 'Combining our strengths'

"At first I had a negative reaction to the proposed fusion of the Communist League and the Young Socialists in Canada," explained Guy, a 22-year-old college student from Quebec City. "It posed a lot of questions in my mind. Will young people just getting into politics feel comfortable with activists who have 10-15 years experience? Will we be able to take part in political discussions as equals?"

Those questions had been on the minds of many Young Socialists according to several members who took some time out of a busy convention schedule to discuss the proposal to combine forces with the Communist League. The heart of the proposal was how to attract young fighters to the communist movement in Canada and internationally. After two days of deliberations at the fusion convention of the Communist League and the Young Socialists, following nearly a month of joint work as a common movement, the fusion perspective received unanimous approval.

John, who has been a member of the Young Socialists for a year, explained that he thought the decision would help in reaching out to the many young people who are involved in political action across Canada and ready for socialist ideas.

"Those of us in the Young Socialists will take more seriously the need to understand politics now," said John. We counted on the party to do this in the past, thinking we didn't have to worry so much about it. Changing this around is going to strengthen the party."

According to Guy, young people see the many problems of capitalism — the unemployment, the poverty, and, in

contrast, how the rich live. But while many are horrified by those conditions young people do not know what to do to challenge the system.

With the fusion, Guy said, "rather than working separately we will be taking another road in a good direction to reach young people and bring them into the communist movement."

For Hedayat, a 24-year-old laid-off steelworker, there are great opportunities to build the party now and attract young people. "We will be combining our strengths with the fusion. The members of the Communist League have many years of experience in politics. The young socialists have closer ties with fellow students and other young people. We will certainly get better results in attracting young people through common experiences."

Richard from Montreal, who said at first he had questions about the fusion perspective, shared the view that combining the two organizations would strengthen the ability of the communist movement to reach out to young people. Richard, who is 18 years old and joined the Young Socialists just last September, believes more and more young people are starting to listen and take seriously what socialists have to say.

"Before, a lot of young people used to associate socialism with Russia but now are starting to realize that Russia wasn't socialist. Many are ready to go on our side," Richard said. "Fusing our two organizations will give young people a feeling that we're really part of a movement where our ideas are accepted, discussed, and acted on." — P.M.



Demonstration last year in Montreal. Young people have been in the forefront of protests against police brutality and the RodneyKing verdict from Minnesota to Montreal, from Toronto to Berlin.

working-class struggle and renew communist leadership in the process."

Convention delegates agreed that what was called for was a transformation of the Communist League through a fusion with the Young Socialists. Most members of the youth group became involved in politics since the demise of the Nicaraguan revolution and the deep retreat of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) leadership, and since the end of the cold war. They are part of a generation that fought against the Gulf War, and that has been involved in the struggle for Native rights and access to abortion.

Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, gave greetings to the convention on behalf of the SWP. He urged everyone at the convention to attend the upcoming International Youth and Socialist Campaign Conference to be held in Oberlin, Ohio, August 5-9 and bring along friends, coworkers, fellow fighters, and classmates as well.

Barnes stressed the fact that individuals in all parts of the world are more open to being reached by the ideas of communist politics now than at any time since the opening years of the Russian Revolution. This has been demonstrated by the response at book fairs around the world to revolutionary literature produced by Pathfinder Press. A recent example Barnes pointed to was the interest in Pathfinder books at the massive book fair in Tehran, Iran.

"There is a tendency on our part to underestimate the historic character of the openness to communist ideas, the hunger for discussion, and the desire for books and pamphlets that carry the legacy of the communist movement," Barnes said.

"We should remember that the biggest problem that communists faced in exchanging ideas over the last six and a half decades was not so much the dictatorships in the capitalist world, although terrible repression did make it difficult to do work in a number of places," Barnes stated. "But where revo-

lutions had occurred and where bureaucracies had strangled the proletarian leadership, hundreds of millions of people were blocked off from access to revolutionary and communist ideas."

"I don't think there's been a time in any of our lifetimes where more of the world was more open than today for the circulation and discussion of revolutionary literature."

As the economic and social crisis deepens and the attacks on women and oppressed nationalities intensifies, more and more young people will respond by fighting and, in the process, be drawn toward politics. "Young people at first fight not because they've figured out how to win, but because they are morally driven to fight. You can't stand the world. You can't stand what surrounds you. And most important, you come to know you can't stand the person you will become if you don't fight," said Barnes.

"The fusion that is being discussed today is something that doesn't come out of weak-

ness. If that were the case it would just be an organizational trick," emphasized Barnes. "It comes out of the gains of the Communist League and the Young Socialists and their ability to survey their own forces accurately and maneuver around unnecessary obstacles to growth and common communist political experience."

Preparation for new gains

The fusion of the two organizations in Canada prepares the communist movement to make gains in winning and integrating youth, explained Barnes. It is now up to the new organization to take that challenge forward and work together at strengthening the effectiveness and striking power of a working-class party with a growing base in the industrial trade unions.

Barnes saluted the Young Socialists and the Communist League of Canada for being the first to take the step that communist organizations in other countries will be discussing and deciding on — in one form or another — within the year. He urged everyone present — by hook or by crook, whether they have to use flight privileges or borrow funds to do it — to go to Sheffield, England, to observe and take part in the June 27-28 fusion convention of the Communist League and Young Socialist groups in that country.

An important aspect of the fusion was the election of a new Central Committee for the Communist League. The convention discussed and adopted a proposal to elect a leadership body of 12 members and to include at least six experienced young political fighters and leaders of the Young Socialists from Quebec City to Vancouver.

In order to carry out this mandate, a nominating commission composed of members of both organizations brought initial nominations for the Central Committee to the convention. Of the 12 members elected, 9 had been members of the Young Socialists. Five of the new Central Committee members joined the movement in the last two years. Six of the Young Socialists elected had also been members or candidates for membership of the Communist League.

Two people asked to join the Communist League at the convention. In addition, three observers from the United States — from Newark, Delaware; Portland, Oregon; and Minneapolis, Minnesota — decided to join the Socialist Workers Party.

Nova Scotia strikers force scabs out of plant

BY MONICA JONES
AND HEIDI ROSE

SYDNEY, Nova Scotia — In a dramatic confrontation with police and company security guards June 11, more than 500 striking workers and their supporters marched on the Clearwater Fine Foods lobster processing plant in Arichat, here on Cape Breton Island in northern Nova Scotia, and drove company officials, guards, and scab replacement workers out of the plant.

The unionists gathered at noon at a roadblock established by the RCMP (the Royal Canadian Mounted Police — Canada's federal police) one and a half miles from the plant. They pushed through the police lines and then marched up to the plant gate.

"Scabs coming in, taking our work from us . . . we're not taking it no more, that's it, we've had enough!" said one striker as he marched up the road. On this day, the cops were outnumbered and powerless to act.

When they arrived at the plant entrance, the workers told the company security guards, who were dressed in riot gear, to leave and take the scabs with them. When the guards refused, the workers tore down barricades and a fence and moved toward the plant. Guards lobbed smoke bombs and tear gas and turned a fire hose on the workers. But the goons were quickly overwhelmed and put to flight. As they fled, they were doused with the fire hose that workers had by then taken over.

Then, as a Halifax *Daily News* story put it, "In a scene reminiscent of the fall of Saigon, a company-hired helicopter plucked replacement workers from the roof of the Clearwater Fine Foods Ltd. lobster processing plant after angry strikers stormed the building." Guards and managers fled with some 50 replacement workers.

Scenes of the confrontation were broadcast on television network news programs all across Canada.

Eighty members of Canadian Auto Workers Local 1970 have been on strike at Clearwater since May 14. The RCMP have cleared the way for replacement workers

and truckloads of live lobsters being brought into the plant. Many strikers have been assaulted by police, who are using riot-control equipment and attack dogs.

Scabs expelled May 31

On May 31, the workers occupied the plant and expelled the scabs. The occupation ended after 12 hours.

On June 10, the day that these reporters

joined the picket line, about 60 workers tried to stop the trucks entering, but they were outmuscled by the cops. The workers were shocked and angered by the brute force deployed by the RCMP. They chanted "Nazis!" and "Royal Clearwater Mounted Police!"

The key issue to emerge in the strike is the company's decision to do away with

Continued on Page 12

Canada public workers ordered back on job

BY MARGARET MANWARING

MONCTON, New Brunswick — Officials of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) ordered 20,000 striking members June 7 to comply with a New Brunswick labor tribunal's ruling that pickets be removed and work resumed at the government's operations.

The workers are fighting to force the provincial government to respect their contract and pay them previously negotiated wage increases. Premier Frank McKenna, head of the government, imposed a freeze on wages in April 1991 and then pushed through further wage-restraint legislation this spring.

The striking CUPE members included non-medical hospital staff, school bus drivers and janitors, highway and ferry workers, and liquor store clerks. With wages running from \$14,000 to \$21,000 a year, they are the lowest paid provincial government workers in Canada. New Brunswick's 14 percent unemployment rate is the second highest in the country.

Strike action had resumed June 3 after angry union members voted to reject a deal worked out by their officials two days earlier that ended their strike just hours after it began. The province's nurses' union announced that its members would respect the picket lines. The nurses, whose wages had been frozen as well, were in the process of voting on a tentative agreement with the government when CUPE members struck.

On June 4 the government obtained a

court order prohibiting "obstruction" of schools, hospitals, and other government buildings.

The government then mobilized squads of riot police to back up the order, arresting 16 strikers in one afternoon. Premier McKenna even had a police squad car shadow him for fear of "workers' violence."

The government's campaign, and anti-union headlines and press editorials won a hearing in some quarters. The professional associations of the province's doctors and nurses made public statements against the union. At the Beaverbrook School in Moncton, a group of parents held a counter picket, accusing CUPE of holding their children hostage. Some students at Campbellton Community College called a demonstration for June 8 against both the union and the government, urging an immediate end to the strike.

On June 6, at the government's request, the Public Service Labor Relations Board ordered the union "to dismantle picket lines and report for the next scheduled shift." But picket lines stayed up through June 7.

Strikers interviewed on picket lines at Moncton's George Dumont Hospital said they were ready to fight through to a victory. "We are fighting for a future where we can sign a contract and know it will be respected. Otherwise we are looking down the road at a situation where we all work for \$5 an hour," said Kevin Britt, a gardener for the

municipal government.

The strikers were confident that they could win growing support. "The solidarity is there," said one, referring to discussions under way with the union at New Brunswick Power Corp. about a possible walk-out in support of CUPE.

The majority of cars driving by the picket lines honked to indicate support to the striking workers.

Despite the government's campaign of intimidation, support for the strikers was making itself heard. Anne Stewart, a patient forced to wait for much needed cancer treatment was quoted in the *Chronicle-Herald*: "I really believe the people in this province are very hard-working, conscientious people who deserve to have [the wages] promised to them." Others spoke out against the real threat to the health care of working people in New Brunswick — the decisions by the provincial government to cut spending on medical services.

The June 8 return-to-work order was followed by all union members. Their demands are now submitted to a government-appointed mediator.

CUPE member Kevin Britt said that the majority of members are frustrated about the return to work. "I was ready to stay out all summer if that was what it took to get our contract honored by the government. Now we've got a mediator who is just Frank [McKenna]'s good buddy!"

'Militant' distribution: a worldwide effort

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The *Militant* is an internationalist paper not only in its political perspectives but in how it is mailed and distributed around the world. As the prices listed on the *Militant's* masthead indicate, the paper is sold each week on street corners, campuses, and in front of plant gates, by supporters in nine different countries.

From Sweden, Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Iceland, France, and Belgium, to cities throughout the United States, supporters of the paper focus the sales efforts on Saturdays, and continue through the week.

Sending out the *Militant* to all these places, as well as to the thousands of subscribers in some 70 countries, is a task performed each week by teams of volunteers in six different cities — New York; Stockholm, Sweden; Auckland, New Zealand; Sydney, Australia; London; and Reykjavik, Iceland.

To save money and more efficiently distribute the paper throughout the South Pacific, the *Militant* began printing a Pacific edition of the paper last summer.

In order to ensure that cities in New Zealand and Australia have the paper for Saturday sales, the staff completes the paper Monday evening so film of the page layouts can be airfreighted to New Zealand that evening in order to arrive in the town of Wanganui in time to be printed each Thursday.

On Tuesday evenings when the *Militant* comes off the printing press in New York, a big volunteer effort is organized to mail the paper throughout the world. Some 40 supporters gather prior to printing of the paper to review the political highlights of the upcoming issue and organize a division of labor to most efficiently complete all the mailing tasks.

Teams work on bundling and sacking the papers according to the zip code destination for subscribers throughout the United States who receive their papers by second-class mail. To speed delivery of the papers, subscriptions are mailed at seven different postal centers throughout the country.

Boxes of papers are packed up for air shipment to London, Stockholm, and Reykjavik, where volunteers label and remail the papers to subscribers.

Other articles on this page describe this operation in Auckland, Sydney, London, and Stockholm.

Sweden

STOCKHOLM — *Militant* subscribers in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland usually receive their papers on Friday. The bundle of papers that is shipped Tuesday evenings by Express Mail Service from New York arrives Thursday afternoons at a post office close to the Pathfinder Bookstore in Stockholm, where supporters of the *Militant* eagerly come in to purchase their copies after work.

Every Thursday evening at 5:30 p.m., one person prepares a short orientation on the contents of the new issue for all the volun-

teers participating in mailing the *Militant* to subscribers. After a short discussion, the work is organized.

Sometimes a fellow worker or another friend comes in to help with the work. On other occasions young people come by because they know they will find people with whom they can discuss politics.

The papers are then taken to the central post office for delivery to subscribers the following day.

— INGE HINNEMO

New Zealand

AUCKLAND — During the past year, since the decision was made to print the Pacific edition of the *Militant* in New Zealand, a network of volunteers has come into action to ensure the paper rapidly reaches readers in this part of the world.

Every week film of each page of the *Militant* is produced in New York City and flown to Auckland. Arriving in New Zealand on Thursday mornings, the film is then transferred to a domestic airline and flown to Wanganui, a small city some 200 miles away, where the paper is printed.

The papers are flown back to Auckland Thursday evening. Shipments of the newly printed *Militant* are then dispatched by airplane to Wellington and Christchurch, New Zealand, and to Sydney, Australia. This ensures that the new issue of the paper arrives in time for Saturday sales organized by teams of *Militant* supporters in these places.

On Saturday afternoons, volunteers in Auckland gather to mail the *Militant* to subscribers throughout New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, and the Philippines.

— RUTH GRAY

Australia

SYDNEY, Australia — When the *Militant* arrives here from New Zealand a team of volunteers form a work crew to post the paper out to subscribers across Australia.

The paper is folded and pressed flat to fit the small-sized envelopes that are cheaper to mail. Labels are checked to make sure all the subscribers have been included, and renewal notices are enclosed when a subscription is coming to an end.

While most of the subscribers live in the Sydney area, subscriptions are also posted out to Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, and some other centers. Other subscribers pick up their copies personally at the Pathfinder Bookshop, or get it hand delivered to them at work.

— BOB AIKEN

Britain

LONDON — Every Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. up to a dozen volunteers meet in the Pathfinder Bookshop to send out some 300 copies of the *Militant* to subscribers in Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Europe.

One of the volunteers, Antonis Partasis, explained that the team organizes "on a conveyor-belt basis to meet the tight schedule of collecting a paper from America, written by workers from all over the globe, and sending it out to readers who want to



Militant/Paul Mailhot
Checking the 'Militant' as it comes off the web press in New York City. Volunteers organize to mail the paper to subscribers in 70 countries around the world.

know what's happening in the world."

"At the start, it's important that someone talks through what's in the paper," said Partasis. "When you know how relevant it is to the person you're sending it to, you know why you're packing it."

After this introduction, the team sorts out a division of labor to cover all the jobs — putting on labels, sticking on stamps, stuffing and sealing envelopes, and sorting them by continent and country. Bundles of multiple copies are made up and weighed.

The different countries or groups of countries are done separately because of the varying postage and mailing requirements. Papers going to subscribers in the Benelux countries (Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg) go separately from those going to other countries in Europe. All the African countries need airmail stickers, whether it's South Africa — where most African subscriptions are sent — or Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, or Mali. Iran, the West Bank, Israel, and others all need special attention.

Bundles of papers are sent to groups of supporters in Britain, France, and Belgium who take them out to the streets and workplaces. The subscriptions for people in Britain go straight to the post office.

"We all have a laugh and talk about what's been happening in the world," said Partasis, "but you have to watch out for mistakes. It's important to deal with one job at a time or you miss things — like which envelopes need renewal reminders. We send letters to everyone with only three issues or less of their subscription to go, and it's a different letter depending where in the world you live."

Despite the variety of jobs and attention to detail that is demanded, Partasis thinks the volunteers do a good job. "On a good night we can be very efficient — 40 minutes from start to finish, which is like one subscription every 8 seconds. Then we clean up, have a cup of tea, and decide what we're going to do next."

— PAMELA HOLMES

Newark police officers shoot Black youth, cover up crime

BY CLIVE TURNBULL

NEWARK, New Jersey — "They say get back. We say fight back." "No justice, No peace!" shouted 50 marchers led by the family of 17-year-old Howard Caesar, who was critically wounded by police here June 9.

Caesar remains hospitalized on a life-support system. He was shot around 4:40 a.m. as he walked away from a car accident near the West Side Park in Newark. The cops charge that Caesar was driving a stolen car that belonged to a police officer's mother. A phone call reporting the car theft was placed one minute after Caesar was shot.

All the officers on the scene failed to file a report on the shooting. In a further effort to cover their tracks, police officers later returned to the park where the shooting occurred in order to recover spent cartridges.

Two eyewitnesses stated that the officers fired "indiscriminately" at both Caesar and another passenger as they ran from the car. Caesar's family has charged the officers with planning an ambush.

Mayor Sharpe James and Police Director William Celester announced June 12 the suspension of six police officers involved in the shooting pending a grand jury investigation. "The mayor said the incident 'clearly places the city and its residents at risk' in light of the unrest experience in Los Angeles," reported the *Newark Star-Ledger*.

"If a young Black man shot a white cop, that Black man would be dead or in solitary

confinement," said Shahid Watson, a minister, at a rally on the steps of Newark City Hall. "The police can't police the police. The police officers responsible should be arrested. There should be an independent prosecutor."

"I'm here to support the Caesar family and the fight for justice against police brutality," stated Sharon Mayse, whose daughter Tasha was one of two youths killed in 1991 when Newark and Hillside police fired more than 40 bullets into the van in which they were riding.

Mayse also reported that the night after she led a June 9 march in Hillside in commemoration of the murder of her daughter, three cops grabbed her 15-year-old son Latique, choking and beating him. One policeman pulled a gun to his neck and cocked it.

Jane Harris, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress and a member of the United Transportation Union, marched with those protesting the shooting of Caesar.

A socialist campaign statement distributed to march participants said: "Police brutality is part of stepped-up violence and repression against working people around the world by the capitalist rulers. The deepening economic and social crisis of the capitalist system drives them to violence against working people."

"Protests are needed to force the Newark city administration to jail the cops who shot Caesar. All working people have a big stake in winning justice for Howard Caesar."



Militant/Martin Marriott
Volunteers in London preparing to send the 'Militant' to subscribers in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

Ross Perot threatens democratic rights of working people

Continued from front page

Post says, "What is going on today? Apart from the obvious fact that the country has become temporarily unhinged, the best one-word explanation I have heard for the Perot phenomenon . . . is: 'decline.' American decline is the subtext of this election."

Writing from Britain, *Financial Times* reporter Jurek Martin states, "Mr. Perot not only springs from no party, he is above, beyond and without party. . . Americans want solutions, not explanations, and he promises action. They are desperately disappointed with the two party system, which has been in decline for a generation."

The majority of political analysts view the Perot candidacy as another, albeit unusual, run by a third-party candidate, comparing him with other third-party efforts in U.S. history.

Not a third party

But Perot is different. He has no intention of building a third party. Perot offers to "get things done," bypassing elected representatives in Congress, by means of his own autocratic rule, backed up by periodical plebiscites — popular votes on the key policies announced by the president.

When a reporter from *New Yorker* magazine asked him what he would do if the voters disagreed with him and rejected these policies, he retorted, "You're into what I call remote possibilities."

After months of sitting on their hands, Republican Party leaders have decided to go after Perot more seriously. In a speech to the Federalist Society June 12, Vice-president Danforth Quayle criticized Perot as a "temperamental tycoon who has contempt for the Constitution of the United States."

While the Republican Party leaders, Quayle included, are scarcely qualified as defenders of the democratic rights embodied in the U.S. Constitution, Quayle put his finger on the truth here. Perot makes clear that as president he would be in command, cutting through whatever institutions and red tape he feels necessary to get the job done.

Perot has a substantial base of support in the military. He has harshly criticized Washington many times for not going far enough in defense of U.S. military personnel. He made a name for himself as a campaigner for U.S. troops missing in action in Vietnam.

Gary Wills writes in *The New York Review* that "almost all of his [Perot] crusades have been for officers of military or law enforcement." Wills reported that "Perot opposed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial as a sneaky plot to insult veterans, and backed the addition of statues to glorify the fighting men who survived."

Wills also recalls Perot's 1988 "law and order" campaign in Dallas that "entailed the removal of a civilian review board as a check on the police."

Laura Miller, writing in the *Minneapolis City Pages*, describes Perot's proposal to

"clean up" South Dallas at that time: "The police department would pick a night, cordon off a section of South Dallas, and then send hundreds of police officers . . . into the area to 'vacuum it up.' Every house and apartment would be searched. Every pedestrian would be shaken down. All weapons and drugs would be confiscated."

Appeal to middle class

Perot puts out an appeal to many sectors of society, from small business people to whom he offers credit, to workers to whom he promises jobs, to the military to whom he offers pensions and a government without corruption.

To workers, Perot says: if you can breathe you will work. "When we lay off a worker, we lose a taxpayer and get a welfare user," says the billionaire businessman.

But it is sections of the middle class, particularly those that have seen better days, who are especially attracted to Perot's nostrums and demagoguery. Perot has effectively played on the profound insecurities they feel.

Perot adds emphasis to his appeal to these layers in society by lashing out at big business as part of the establishment: "The status quo works for them right now and I'm talking about major, major changes," he says.

A few facts about the growing social crisis underline why Perot, with his promises of sweeping change to clean out corruption and put the nation to work, is gaining a hearing among the middle class and among workers as well:

- The recession, coupled with the vast debt accumulated in the 1980s, has led to an unprecedented level of business failures. The 87,000 business failures in 1991 represented an increase of 44 percent and spanned every major industry group and region.

- According to *New York Times* reporter Leonard Silk, "The American economic recovery is being threatened by a global recession. In all the major countries, including this one, the recessions of the 1990s have proved to be deeper and more tenacious than the consensus forecasts of economists or governments."

- Unemployment has risen to 7.5 percent, the highest level since 1984.

- Paid time off — vacations, holidays, sick leave, and personal days — fell roughly 15 percent in the 1980s. Working people are spending 158 hours more each year at work — the equivalent of one extra month.

Bleak career prospects

- College graduates face the worst job prospects in several decades.

- The proportion of full-time workers earning extremely low wages rose markedly in the past decade. The percentage of full-time, year-round workers making too little to lift a family of four above the poverty line



Veterans supporting Perot. Perot has substantial support in the military. He has made a name for himself as a crusader for officers of military and law enforcement.

swelled to 18 percent in 1990 from 12 percent a decade earlier. Worst off are young people where the proportion of 18-year-olds to 24-year-olds working full time and making low wages soared to 43 percent in 1990, almost twice as many as in 1979.

- There has been a big downturn in the number of workers covered by company pension funds. "The decline increases the likelihood that these workers will postpone retirement, be poorer when they do retire, and rely more heavily on Social Security and other government transfers," reports the Center for Pension and Retirement Research.

Bonapartism

Perot's key difference from other politicians is his attempt to appear as a superarbiter balancing the conflicting interests in society. He does not offer a party or an organization, but himself, acting "for the people." In response to the charge that he's using his billions to win power through the election, he retorts, "they say I'm buying the election. I'm buying it for you."

His proposals for popular votes on key policies — given a new twist by his scheme for an "electronic town hall" where people would vote at home using phones or computer links, in conjunction with TV polls — are typical of a form of rule that was seen in much of capitalist Europe in the 1920s and 1930s. "The democratic ritual of Bonapartism is the plebiscite," Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky wrote in 1936 of these regimes in the *Revolution Betrayed*. "From time to time," he said, "the question is presented to the citizens: for or against the leader? And the voter feels the barrel of a revolver between his shoulders."

Bonapartism in power

Bonapartist leaders found their extreme form in fascist rulers such as Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini, who swept aside all democratic and parliamentary forms of rule using mass street movements in the 1920s and 1930s. But there were others who went part of the way along the road of these fascist dictators, such as Gen. Charles de Gaulle who took power in France with military backing in 1958. Such rulers are a means whereby the capitalists seek to stabilize their rule in times of deep crisis.

Perot's view of the role of the military and police and his leaning to "decisive ac-

tion" to resolve problems at home and abroad reflect the evolution of bourgeois politics toward a stronger executive branch. His outlook underlines the tendency to narrow down the role of parliaments and to shift decision-making power to the executive and even to the military. In the United States the "executive order" is already commonplace in the operations of government and has become a mode of governing.

The Perot candidacy has shaken the Democratic and Republican parties. Among the Republicans, Vice-president Quayle has been assigned to take the lead in trying to reverse the tide toward Perot. He has raised the level of rightist demagoguery and appeals to "family, faith, and country," denouncing the "cultural elite" who support such things as abortion rights and sex education in schools.

Newt Gingrich, the Georgian Congressman and a respected figure in right-wing Republican circles, recently sounded the alarm over Perot. "If the president is to recover from the current situation and win," he warned, "we had better start dealing with . . . how unique this year is, how frightened and angry the American people are and how deeply the American people believe the current situation . . . justifies the radical gamble of a third candidate."

Defections from Republican right

Many in the Republican Party believe that the Republican right is deserting to the Perot camp or will do so soon if things are not turned around. One of the most prominent to bolt was Edward Rollins, who ran Reagan's 1984 re-election campaign. He is now cochairman of the Perot campaign.

There is no point in speculating how far the Perot campaign will go. That depends on how incapable the two bourgeois parties prove in answering him.

The ability of the autocratic billionaire Perot to put himself across as a radical populist figure is also a result of the failure of the labor movement to break from its abject support for capitalist politicians such as Clinton and to present a working-class answer to the economic depression, social crisis, and war that capitalism is producing.

In office Perot, like all such figures, would reinforce, not challenge, the rule of big business. Perot in power would represent a grave threat to the democratic rights of working people and to the labor movement in particular.

Argentina seminar honoring Che Guevara discusses revolutionary perspectives, Cuba

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

ROSARIO, Argentina — Some 200 people packed the auditorium of the School of Liberal Arts at the National University here June 12 for the opening of an international seminar honoring the 64th anniversary of the birth of Ernesto Che Guevara. Guevara, born in this city, was a central leader of the 1959 Cuban revolution.

The gathering was called to discuss the opportunities and challenges in building "a revolutionary political alternative in Latin America and the Caribbean," said Patricio Echegaray of the Communist Party of Argentina. On the morning of June 12, a plaque in honor of Che Guevara was unveiled by conference organizers at the house where he was born. The discussion focused on the defense of the Cuban revolution and support for its socialist course, along with a debate

on the lessons from the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

"Cuba cannot just be the object of your solidarity," said Germán Sánchez, representative of the Cuban Communist Party, who addressed the gathering. The example of the Cuban revolution "has to be an integral part of how to advance the struggles of working people today," he said.

What many referred to as the "crisis of socialism" did not begin "in the 1980s but dates back to the late 1920s" after the death of Lenin in the Soviet Union, said Sánchez. "Che explained and contributed to help understand this."

The conference was organized by a number of political parties and organizations in Argentina, including the Communist Party, Intransigent Party, Authentic Socialist Party, Popular Encounter, Peronism for the Coun-

try, and the magazine *Crítica*. More than 40 delegates from anti-imperialist and socialist organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean took part.

Representatives attended from the Workers Party of Brazil, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador, United Mariateguista Party of Peru, Revolutionary Democratic Party of Panama, Communist parties of Chile and Columbia, several organizations that are part of the Broad Front of Uruguay, and the Socialist Workers Party of the United States, among others.

Participation from the Caribbean was more sparse. Besides the Cuban Communist Party, the only other delegates from the Caribbean were from the Lavalas movement of Haiti, which organized the electoral victory of now-deposed president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and the Dominican Communist Party.



Job hunter in Buffalo, N.Y. Perot attracts middle-class layers, especially those that have seen better days.

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation are welcome to attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

At the Militant Labor Forum you can express your opinion, listen to the views of fellow fighters, and exchange ideas on how to best advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Campaign Rally for the Socialist Alternative to the Two Parties of Racism, War, and Economic Depression. Sun., June 21. Reception, 1 p.m.; rally, 2 p.m. 2552-B W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

The Police Murder of Pouvi and Itali Tualaulelei. Samoan Community Activists Unite to Press for Federal Charges. Speakers: Julie Tualaulelei, widow of Pouvi Tualaulelei; Liz Foisia, Samoan community activist. Sun., June 28, 2:30 p.m. 2552-B W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Stop the Death Penalty. Robert Miller, Socialist Workers candidate for 4th CD. Sat., June 27, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Ross Perot: False Hope, False Promises. Speaker: John Sarge, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers union. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Socialist Educational Weekend June 20-21. Farmers Face the Crisis of the '90s. Speaker: Doug Jenness. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. **The Origin of the Myth of Race.** Speaker: Doug Jenness. Sun., June 21, 1 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3 for each class or \$5 for both. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

The "Earth Summit": Why Capitalism Can't Clean Up the Mess. Speaker: representative,

Socialist Workers campaign. Sat., June 27, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Protest the Shooting of Howard Caesar. Speakers: Venus Hannah, mother of Santana Hannah, who died in Plainfield, New Jersey, police custody in 1990; Jane Harris, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the 10th CD. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

Open U.S. Borders to the Haitian Refugees. Sat., June 27, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Should Working People Support Ross Perot? Speaker: Kevin Dwire, Socialist Workers Party.

Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

Out Now! Stop U.S. Intervention in Korea. The 42nd Anniversary of the Start of the Korean War. Sat., June 27, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Abolish the Death Penalty. Speakers: Bruce Ledewitz, professor of law at Duquesne University; Arnold Weissberg, Socialist Workers candidate for attorney general of Pennsylvania. Sun., June 21, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Conversations with Japanese Workers. A U.S. Oil Worker Reports on a Fact-Finding Tour. Speaker: Joel Britton, member of Oil, Chemical

and Atomic Workers union in California. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$5. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Deadly Deception: Hanford Nuclear Disaster. Speaker: Kathy Wheeler, Socialist Workers candidate for governor, member United Transportation Union, recently attended Protecting Mother Earth Conference. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

CANADA

Vancouver

Open Canada's Borders to Refugees! Stop the Deportation of Steven Ogunwuyi! A panel discussion. Sat., June 20, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24 Ave). Donation: \$3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

Antiwar protests continue in Yugoslavia

Continued from front page

are taxi drivers, chefs, soccer players, merchants, students, professors, journalists, musicians, bakers, poets, and dancers.

The command structure, headed by Major Halilovic, includes three deputies, one each from the Muslim Slav, Serbian, and Croatian populations. More than half of the 5,000 fighters are Muslim Slavs — reflecting the population of Sarajevo — but there are also large numbers of Serbs and Croats.

Meanwhile the Bush administration continues to discuss sending U.S. military forces to Yugoslavia, stressing that any U.S. troops would be limited to protecting humanitarian relief efforts. "We're concerned about the situation in Yugoslavia, but there's no commitment on that," Bush said June 11.

It was reported the day before that Bush's advisors were weighing military options, particularly around Sarajevo which has been under siege for weeks by terrorist squads backed by the regime in Belgrade, Serbia. A growing number of voices have begun pushing for U.S. military action.

A resolution is being discussed in the Senate that calls on the administration to have the United Nations draft a plan for intervention in Yugoslavia. The resolution was introduced by Sen. Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat, and endorsed by Senators George Mitchell, a Maine Democrat, and Robert Dole, a Kansas Republican.

Another senator, Republican Richard Lugar from Indiana, said that Bush should threaten Serbia with "sufficient military force." He maintained, "NATO should draw up plans for a comprehensive use of force, as thorough as that formulated for air, sea, and ground forces in Desert Storm," the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

Charles Krauthammer, a columnist who recently called for caution before considering the use of the military, wrote in *Time* magazine June 15 that now is the time for military force. He rejected the argument that Washington should follow the lead of other countries.

Façade of UN 'peacekeeping'

"There is no reality behind the façade of UN 'peacekeeping,'" Krauthammer writes. "The UN comes to life only when animated — manipulated — by the U.S. . . . The gulf war was no more collective than the Korean War, also fought under the UN flag. It was not the UN that reversed Saddam's conquest of Kuwait. It was the U.S. Army, based in Saudi Arabia, helped by Britain and France. Everything else was window dressing."

"Today, as always," Krauthammer continues, "threats are met and conflicts are halted by the great powers, and most decisively by the one dominant power, the United States."

Many Bush administration officials, however, are nervous about the risks of confronting the Serbian military head on.

U.S. general John Galvin, the top NATO commander in Europe, met with Bush administration and Pentagon officials June 10 to discuss Yugoslavia. Galvin explained how humanitarian relief efforts could gradually lead to more direct participation in the Yugoslav war.

Using the U.S. operation in northern Iraq involving the Kurds as an example, Galvin said he did not seek to "start moving divisions into Yugoslavia," but added "that doesn't mean that it's impossible to do anything."

The Kurdish relief operation, Galvin said, "started out to be a humanitarian effort to feed the Kurds, but then we had to move the Kurds because it was a question of sanitation. In order to do that we had to create a security zone, so we had to move the Iraqis out. And so that was peace enforcement in addition to humanitarian efforts."

"Then there was conflict in there because the Kurdish PKK, the guerillas, were fighting the Iraqis," Galvin continued, "and the Iraqis were fighting back, and we had to get that stopped. And so you had a combination of humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping, peacemaking, conflict, and deterrence."

Galvin's candid explanation flew in the face of President George Bush's statement the following day in which he emphasized, "We're not the world's policeman."

As this debate proceeded, the United Nations sent more reinforcements to Sarajevo with the intention of reopening the airport. Some 900 Canadians are heading for Sarajevo equipped with heavy artillery to create a zone around the airport and a corridor to get food into Sarajevo.

Noting that UN forces have been battered by the Belgrade-backed forces during the last two months, Gen. Lew MacKenzie stated that UN troops will for the first time be ordered to return fire.

Nova Scotia strikers force out scabs

Continued from Page 9

women workers, who make up about one third of the workforce. The company wants to ignore the women's right to recall when seasonal layoffs end, saying that they lack the physical strength necessary for the job.

Union member Paul Tyrrell explains that women have worked at Clearwater with no problems since the plant opened in 1987. Why is the company raising this issue now? "It's a case of divide and conquer, pure and simple," he replied.

The workers want more money than the 45 cents over three years that the company has offered (the base wage is around \$8.50 per hour) and they are refusing the company's demand that overtime wages be paid after 48 hours instead of 40. They have voted twice to reject settlements proposed by their union negotiators.

Following the June 11 battle, the Nova Scotia government established an industrial disputes tribunal to mediate the contract dispute and Clearwater agreed to a three-day truce in its scab operation. No charges have been laid to date against the June 11 demonstrators.

The Clearwater strike is one of several battles in Canada today against companies using strikebreaking replacement workers. Workers at the *Toronto Star*, that city's largest daily paper, and miners at Royal Oak Mines near Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, have waged militant actions against their bosses. And flight attendants at Nationalair are continuing their strike for a new contract.

June 11, the date of the confrontation at Arichat, is commemorated as Davis Day in coal mining communities across Nova Scotia, in memory of William Davis, a coal miner killed by police during a major coal strike in Cape Breton in 1925. This year's commemorations were dedicated to the families of the 26 victims of the Westray mine disaster of May 9. Three thousand people turned out here in Sydney for a benefit concert for the families.

Monica Jones is a member of International

Association of Machinists Local 2309 in Montreal and Heidi Rose is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 2754 in Toronto. Both work at Canadian Airlines.

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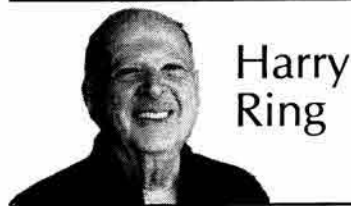
Christchurch: 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 656-055.

Wellington: 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10. Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

But what have they got to be mad about — In all of South-Central Los Angeles, the city's princi-



Harry Ring

pal Black and Latino community, there are 19 bank branches. But there are 133 check-cashing businesses, with fees running as high as 20 percent.

Different values — The veep, who nailed "Murphy Brown" as re-

sponsible for the collapse of family values, is renting his Virginia home to an unwed couple. But these, clearly, are not common sinners. They're paying \$2,400 a month for the sublet. Meanwhile the Quayles are residing rent-free in the vice-presidential mansion.

Man, show some confidence — "It could be read as a blatant sign of weakness." — *Wall Street* economist Michael Moran, responding to the 7.5 percent May jobless rate, the highest in nearly eight years.

Progress report — Address code manual, "The Disney Look," spells out what Disney employees can and cannot wear. But the rules

are not carved in stone. For instance, notes Carla Marlenee, Disney's appearance coordinator, women employees can now wear black, brown, white, or grey sheer hose in addition to traditional beige.

That makes sense. Not! — IBM's dress code requires such niceties as white shirts for male employees. Communications manager Richard Martin explains that this is "for a practical reason. It's easier to color coordinate a suit and tie with a white shirt."

Try the chutzpah burrito — Taco Bell, the West Coast chain of purveyors of allegedly Mexican fast food, is expanding into Mexico.

For openers, it's operating food carts on the streets of Mexico City.

Shopping tip — Apparently aware of the recession, fashion designer Arnold Scaasi hasn't raised his prices in three years. You can still get an off-the-rack dress for \$900 to \$3,500, and made-to-measures still start at \$6,000.

Not to mention the prices — Researchers did a study of drug ads aimed at doctors who read medical journals. A news account said they found that many of the ads were "unbalanced, misleading, and in apparent violation of federal regulations."

Prayers unheard — The Chris-

tian Science Church, which recommends praying to heal illnesses, offered its first public financial accounting, disclosing that during the past eight years, its TV operations soaked up \$259 million. They wiped out church reserves of \$22 million, and "borrowed" \$115 million from the employees pension fund to keep it afloat in 1991.

Wide open space — "NASA engineers have been forced to redesign shields for the space station because there's so much junk littering space," officials said. "New, stronger shields are expected to provide two to three times more protection against orbiting debris." — News item.

Report uncovers immigration cops' use of torture

"The findings are appalling. Beatings, rough physical treatment, and racially motivated verbal abuse are routine. Even more serious abuses, including unjustified shootings, torture, and sexual abuse occur. . . .

"The human rights abuses reported here are similar in kind and severity to those about which we have reported in many other countries. Moreover, the response of the U.S. government is as defensive and unyielding as the responses of many of the most abusive governments. . . .

"Most outrageous is the INS's willingness to cover up or defend almost any form of egregious conduct by its agents." — *Brutality Unchecked: Human Rights Abuses Along the U.S. Border With Mexico*. An Americas Watch Report

BY SETH GALINSKY

The findings of Americas Watch that the Immigration and Naturalization Service

youth ran away from Border Patrol Agent Michael Lewis in Madera, California.

When Lewis, who stands over six feet tall, caught up to the approximately five-foot, one-hundred-pound youth, he seized him by the collar and one leg. Lifting him horizontally to shoulder height, he threw Ramirez to the pavement.

Ramirez landed on the back of his head and neck. Lewis turned him face down, put his foot on Ramirez's back, and handcuffed him. He then picked Ramirez up and pushed him into the van.

Ramirez began to vomit. Instead of taking him for medical treatment the INS agents first drove the van to Fresno and dropped off four other detainees. When they finally took Ramirez to a medical center, they told emergency room personnel that he had fallen, misleading them about the severity of the injuries. Ramirez died a week later of a skull fracture and brain hemorrhage.

After public protests, Lewis — who has been involved in other beatings and deaths, including running over undocumented workers with a van — was transferred to Florida. He was never indicted or charged in the death. Instead, he was promoted to the rank of Senior Border Patrol Agent.

INS agents convinced of impunity

Beatings by INS agents are so frequent that they often refer to undocumented workers as "tonks."

"It's the sound of a flashlight hitting somebody's head: tonk," explained an INS official.

Convinced of their impunity and power Border Patrol Agents at times have beaten workers in full public view.

Cheryl Williams of Stockton, California, watched from her balcony as an INS agent kicked a Mexican man who was handcuffed and lying face down on the ground. The report describes what happened next.

Williams shouted to the agent to stop abusing the man, but the agent ignored her. When he tried to pick the man up by the handcuffs and the man stumbled, the agent hit him with his fist. Williams again told the agent to stop beating the man. The agent allegedly responded, "Mind your own fucking business, lady, and go back into your house." . . . Williams repeatedly requested the agent's name, but the agent refused to identify himself. . . . The INS never disclosed . . . the name of the Border Patrol agent involved.

Brutality Unchecked also documents cases of electric shock torture and of rape by INS agents.

Pervasive racism

"Racially discriminatory attitudes, though officially prohibited," Americas Watch notes, "pervade the Border Patrol and often become flagrant."

"Verbal abuse," obscenities, and racist and sexist insults are common and "seem to be aimed at either humiliating the targets or provoking a violent response."

The report describes one episode in mid-1989 near Tijuana. For more than an hour, an INS agent broadcast insults and racial slurs "laced with sexual innuendoes to a crowd gathered on the Mexican side of the levee waiting to cross."

Unlike many of these incidents, this one was observed by a *Los Angeles Times* correspondent.

"Your mothers are all whores," the agent

announced. "All Mexicans are whores."

When undocumented workers have been arrested by the immigration cops, the racist, abusive treatment continues.

The so-called Service Processing Centers (SPC), where alleged "illegal" immigrants are detained, are often overcrowded. At the Port Isabel SPC thousands of immigrants were kept in large tents in 1989. Women held in some of the tents were denied access to telephones and showers for more than one week.

To protest similar conditions, detained immigrants at El Centro, California, staged a hunger strike in 1985, refusing to leave a recreation area. The INS mobilized guards in riot gear to quell the strike. Even though the prisoners offered no resistance, the guards kicked, beat, and dragged the hunger strikers out of the recreation area. They then left them lying for hours with their hands tied behind their backs.

Among other violations of democratic rights documented by Americas Watch are:

- denial of right to legal representation;
- threatening immigrants who have witnessed or been victims of abuse with criminal charges in order to conceal agent misconduct;
- detention of children, at times tricking them into signing voluntary departure forms;
- forcing children to walk in shackles as

punishment.

All indications are that incidents of abuse by the INS are on the rise. The number of Border Patrol agents doubled in 1986 with the passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act. The number of agents at the border has continued to increase since then.

Racist attitudes, and "the cocky confidence of being above the law" have intensified, Americas Watch states. One example has been the violation of Mexican sovereignty by INS agents who cross the border to make arrests. The Mexican government protested six such incidents the week of Sep. 14, 1991, alone.

Americas Watch takes pains to explain that it "does not challenge the appropriateness of enforcing U.S. immigration laws. Nor does it claim a general right for undocumented aliens to remain in the United States."

The group, however, "insists that the U.S. government and its agencies respect the basic human rights of all people in the United States, whether lawful residents or undocumented migrants."

Brutality Unchecked: Human Rights Abuses Along the U.S. Border With Mexico is available from Americas Watch for \$7 a copy. Write Publications Department, Human Rights Watch, 485 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10036.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



Washington's propagandists have tried to depict China's explosion of a hydrogen bomb as a new threat to humanity. In our view, the opposite is the case. We believe this is so because the danger of nuclear war has come not from Peking but from Washington. U.S. escalation in Vietnam has pointed inexorably in the direction of a nuclear attack on China. The apparently unexpected Chinese H-bomb is an obstacle in the path of that terrifying plan.

In announcing the explosion of its hydrogen bomb, the Chinese reiterated their pledge that they would never be the first to use such a weapon. They also repeated their stand in favor of the total abolition of all nuclear weapons. The significance of this is made apparent by the simple fact that Washington has persistently refused to make a similar declaration.

It is the U.S. government that has menaced China, and the world, with the threat of its nuclear arms. The Chinese hydrogen bomb is a substantial counter to Washington's nuclear blackmail and is, in that sense, a contribution toward world peace.



The full fury of the most ruthless terror machine on earth was unloosed on the Czechoslovakian people after the killing of Gestapo chief Reinhard (The Hangman)

Heydrich. In an effort to terrorize the Czech masses into divulging the identity of the slayers of Heydrich, thousands were arrested, hundreds were executed, a whole village, Lidice, was razed to the ground and all its male inhabitants murdered.

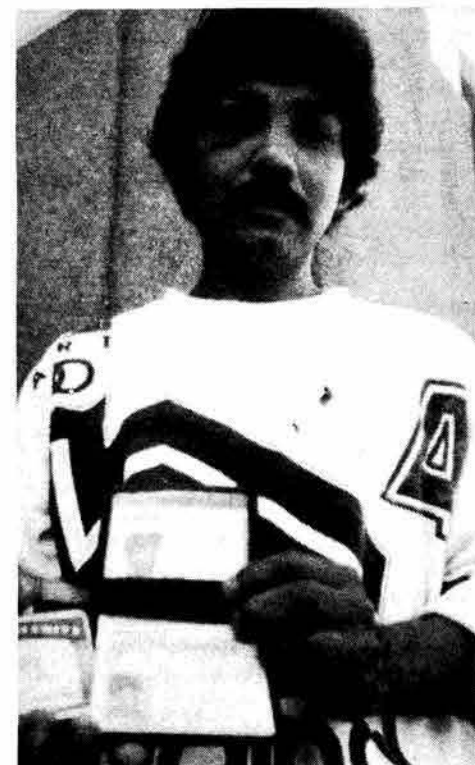
An announcement was issued by the Gestapo that the Czech people had a "last chance" to deliver up Heydrich's slayers by 8 o'clock in the evening of June 18, or suffer even worse reprisals, a threat which all knew the Nazis were more than ready to carry out.

At the same time, an offer of a large reward, 100,000 marks, was made to be paid the person or persons divulging information useful to the Gestapo in discovering and seizing Heydrich's assailants.

Yet not one voice spoke. Not a single person came forward, despite the terror and bribery, to betray those who killed Heydrich. In order to save face, the Gestapo had to announce that two of the killers of Heydrich had been "discovered" hiding in a church in Prague and that "they were shot immediately upon arrest."

The Gestapo had to "discover" two persons — any two persons — in order not to admit that the Czech people, the workers and peasants, had successfully defied the Nazi terror. For this successful resistance, the news of which will spread throughout occupied Europe, constitutes a major defeat for Hitler.

The resistance of the Czechoslovakian people in this instance is a sign that the day of reckoning for Hitler is close at hand. It is a sign of the failure of his "new order" and of the indestructible hatred of the European masses for Nazism. Through this resistance, Hitler can already see the noose about his neck — the noose that will be drawn tight by the revolutionary power of the resurgent workers and peasants of Europe.



U.S. resident beaten by border police

(INS) routinely condones beatings, shootings, sexual abuse, and even torture and killings by its agents will come as no surprise to many immigrant workers. They have dealt with *la migra* firsthand.

Carefully documented sections in *Brutality Unchecked*, published by Americas Watch in May, describe incident after incident of INS abuses. The report says that *la migra* goes "beyond apprehending undocumented migrants to 'judging' and 'punishing' them."

Since 1980, the report points out, Border Patrol agents have shot dozens of people along the U.S.-Mexico border "killing at least 11 and permanently disabling at least ten" in the San Diego area alone.

INS agents are allowed to carry semiautomatic handguns on and off duty. In some cases they are allowed to carry M-16 automatic rifles.

Lethal force

Meeting an INS agent, whether armed or unarmed, is dangerous for immigrant workers.

The report describes the death of Ismael Ramirez in February 1988. The 17-year-old

Stop border outrages

Americas Watch in its report *Brutality Unchecked: Human Rights Abuses Along the U.S. Border With Mexico* notes that U.S. immigration cops go "beyond apprehending undocumented migrants to 'judging' and 'punishing' them."

What is the "crime" that these undocumented workers commit? Fleeing intolerable economic and political conditions in their homelands and seeking to find a better life for themselves and their families.

Workers in the United States do this all the time, moving from state to state and city to city to find a better job or just to find any job at all. National borders, like state and municipal boundaries, are arbitrary and imposed by the government.

In spite of all the talk about stopping the flow of "illegal aliens," the employers and their government have no real intention of keeping out undocumented workers. Their goal is to keep immigrant workers terrorized, punish them, and make them accept low wages and outrageous working conditions so that the bosses can rake in profits and drive down all workers' wages. They try to turn immigrant workers into scapegoats to keep the working class divided.

The recent ruling forcing the Immigration and Naturalization Service to recognize that undocumented workers have the right to an attorney and must be informed of that right is a victory that must be defended. It will take a

continuing fight to force the INS to implement this.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service routinely violates its own rules when it metes out its daily punishment. INS rules, for example, prohibit racist behavior by its agents. But racist abuse is rampant throughout the border patrol.

Americas Watch correctly demands that the U.S. government "respect the basic human rights of all people in the United States, whether lawful residents or undocumented migrants."

To effectively fight for the respect of basic human rights, it is both necessary to fight against *la migra's* brutality and to fight for an open border. INS cops who beat, kill, torture, or rape should be prosecuted and put behind bars.

Working people in the United States should see ourselves as part of an international working class. We should oppose the "punishment" the rulers administer, whether it is against a Rodney King, an Iraqi worker fleeing the war in the Persian Gulf, or an undocumented immigrant crossing a border.

The rulers seek to divide us in myriad ways: employed versus unemployed, Black versus white, men versus women, documented versus undocumented.

Instead, we should welcome our brothers and sisters from around the globe with open arms and say, "Your fight is our fight. For a world without borders."

Protest attacks on the CP

The charges filed against the Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA) at the Federal Election Commission should not be taken lightly. They are an attack not just on the Communist Party but on the rights of working people to participate in politics.

A right-wing group, Americans for Tax Reform, claims the CPUSA has violated the law by failing to register as a "foreign agent," exceeding campaign contribution limits, and failing to report transfers of money across the borders. If the Federal Election Commission agrees with these charges, it would set a precedent for attacking other political parties.

Newspaper reports allege that the Communist Party received \$2 million a year from the ruling party in the former Soviet Union.

Whether these allegations are true or false is irrelevant. The CPUSA has been an apologist for every move of Moscow from the Stalin-Hitler pact to the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Soviet tanks. Its close ties to the Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union were never a secret.

The charge of failing to register as a foreign agent is especially ominous. For more than half a century, the U.S. rulers have used these types of accusations in an attempt to curtail the democratic rights of all those who fight against capitalism or oppose the government's policies.

The Voorhis Act, for example, which was enacted in 1940, requires the registration with the U.S. government

of any organization "subject to foreign control." This is defined as any group that "is affiliated directly or indirectly with a foreign government . . . or a political party in a foreign country, or an international political organization."

Any organization so defined is required to turn over to the government a list of the names and addresses of all of its members and financial contributors, which would then be published. Failure to comply with the law is punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a fine of \$10,000. Although this law has rarely been used, it is still on the books.

As the depression and social crisis deepen, the U.S. rulers will seek ways to take away the political space available to working people and to restrict democratic rights.

The attack on the CPUSA, if successful, would open the door to attacks on unions and other organizations in the working-class movement, including the Socialist Workers Party. When workers move to fight against the injustice and oppression of capitalism, they will more and more see themselves as part of an international movement of workers, farmers, and youth. They will seek to act politically on a world scale. That is precisely what Washington wants to stop.

Labor unions, organizations that defend a woman's right to choose abortion, antiracist groups, and workers everywhere should demand that the Federal Election Commission dismiss the charges against the Communist Party.

Castro at the Earth Summit

Continued from front page

of funds to aid the vast majority of humanity. "When the assumed threats of communism no longer exist, there are no pretexts for cold wars, arms races and military expenditures," he explained.

"What is it that prevents the immediate use of those resources to foster development in the Third World and avert the threat of the planet's ecological destruction?" Castro asked to loud applause. "Let this be the end of selfishness. Let this be the end of hegemonism, the end of callousness, irresponsibility and deceit. Tomorrow it will be too late to do what should have been done a long time ago."

The leaders of the world's richest capitalist powers, however, made clear that funds on the scale so desperately needed would not be forthcoming. United Nations officials estimated that \$125 billion a year would be needed to assist the poor countries in development and protection of the environment. Washington promised to increase its annual environmental aid to \$700 million. The 12 nations who are members of the European Community promised a combined total of just \$4 billion. Japan pledged \$1.4 billion a year.

Castro hit the nail on the head when he explained, "The ecological debt should be paid, not the foreign debt." The debts owed by the Third World countries to banks in New York, Tokyo, Paris, and Bonn are further impoverishing these countries through a massive transfer of wealth into the coffers of the exploiting capitalist powers.

U.S. president George Bush asserted at the meeting that the U.S. government is leading the world in protecting the environment as he refused to sign the central document of the conference — the biodiversity treaty. Bush says this treaty, which aims to conserve millions of plant and animal species, would cut into the profit prerogatives of the U.S.

biotechnology industry.

According to a confidential memorandum obtained by the New York *Village Voice* from Vice-president Danforth Quayle's office, Washington also fears that signing this treaty would "require enactment of broadened environmental legislation in the U.S." and the substantial expansion of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. This occurs at a time when the U.S. government is on a drive to trim back laws protecting the environment at home.

Bush argues that too much protection of the environment means the loss of U.S. jobs. But the real culprit for rising unemployment is the employers' drive to recoup their sagging profits, and the anarchy of capitalism, which throws millions of workers on the scrap heap as depression conditions worsen.

The labor movement needs to lead a fight to defend the environment while demanding jobs for all, by such measures as shortening the workweek with no cut in pay to spread the available work around.

What is needed on an international scale is to mobilize the world's resources for both economic development and protecting the environment. Capitalism cannot and will not do this. As a necessary first step in this direction, the debt owed by Third World nations to the imperialist centers must be immediately canceled.

Protecting the environment does not necessarily conflict with development, only with the capitalist path of development, which plunders natural and human resources to the maximum, in the drive for profits.

To ensure the progressive use of the earth's resources to meet human needs without destroying the world at the same time, it will take a government of workers and farmers, carrying out a democratically decided plan for development — socialism.

This column is devoted to a discussion with our readers — printing remarks, questions, and other comments sent to the *Militant*. Where possible we will take up issues raised in notes and letters as a way to help clarify and expand on the coverage in the paper.

In his letter, reader R.S. disagrees with the stand that supporters of the newspaper *Socialist Appeal* in Britain took during World War II. These revolutionary workers — cothinkers of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States — opposed the imperialist war being waged by the British rulers and their allies, and argued that the interests of working people should not be subordinated to the war effort being waged by the employers.

Such a position was "irresponsible," R.S. writes. "To

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

not support the war effort . . . would mean capitulating to Hitler and the Nazis."

In stating that "Britain was fighting Hitler and the Nazis," R.S. obscures the real nature of World War II. That war was the capitalist rulers' solution to the gigantic economic and social crisis that engulfed the world in the 1930s. It was a fight between the capitalist rulers of Britain, Germany, the United States, France, Japan, and other imperialist powers to redivide the world and grab markets, colonies, raw materials, sources of cheap labor, and spheres of influence.

Was Britain fighting fascism?

The British empire was fighting to hold on to colonies such as India, Malaysia, and Egypt. The Japanese empire had designs on China and Southeast Asia. The rulers of the United States, the rising imperialist power, wanted to take over its rivals' markets and spheres of influence all over the world.

Was Britain fighting fascism? British foreign secretary Anthony Eden made it quite clear in a speech in January 1942, which the *Militant* quoted at the time. "The trouble with Hitler," he said, "was not that he was a Nazi at home. The trouble with him was that he would not stay at home."

The British rulers preferred peace with Hitler until the German imperialist government directly threatened their interests.

World War II was also a war at home by the employers against workers and farmers in each country. Capitalists imposed speed-up and long hours, and tried to ban strikes. Washington launched a war on democratic rights, jailing socialists and unionists like the militant leaders of the Teamsters union in Minnesota in 1941 for their opposition to the U.S. drive toward war. Meanwhile, the government gave a green light to fascist groups that were raising their ugly head in the United States.

It is true that the rulers of Britain and the United States hypocritically raised the banner of fighting fascism in order to mobilize workers and farmers as cannon fodder in this war of plunder. How else could they have fought the war?

Role of labor misleaders

The majority of working people, who hated fascism, went along with this argument. The responsibility for this, however, rests with the Stalinist, social-democratic, and other misleaders in the labor movement. It was they who derailed the huge labor upsurge in the 1930s away from an independent working-class political perspective and toward reliance on the employers' parties and government.

Throughout World War II, the social democrats and Stalinists in the labor movement supported no-strike pledges, frame-ups of union militants, and other employer attacks. The U.S. Communist Party denounced Blacks fighting racial segregation because "Hitler is the main enemy" and "the foes of Negro rights in this country should be considered as secondary." The British Labour Party officialdom opposed the massive independence struggle in India, saying that the Indian people "must await the close of the war."

In spite of these huge obstacles, as the war dragged on, resistance by working people to these conditions grew. A number of important strikes took place in the United States. Under the slogan "We want democracy at home," Blacks fought Jim Crow segregation with marches and rallies.

Similarly, discontent with the government's policies grew in Britain. At the same British Labour Party conference where revolutionaries reported big sales of *Socialist Appeal*, the *Militant* reported that "a motion [by labor officials] to maintain the war-time truce passed by only the narrowest margin."

The class-collaborationist policies of the Stalinist and social-democratic leaders discredited them in the eyes of the ranks. On the other hand communist workers in Britain, the United States, and elsewhere joined the struggles by fellow working people. They told the truth and won respect for their ideas.

* * *

A Correction: A sentence in the editorial "Denmark vote exposes rivalries" in issue number 24 wrongly stated that in Britain the Asylum bill became law with the support of the Labour Party. In fact, the bill was not voted into law because of the timing of the general election. This also reflected uncertainty from the government on how to proceed in the face of broad opposition to the bill. Labour's leaders said they were in favor of a law to curb asylum seekers, but had doubts about parts of the proposed law. The re-elected Conservative government has indicated it aims to reintroduce the bill later this year.

Five unions strike California hospital complex

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standard, working conditions, and unions. We invite you to contribute

ON THE PICKET LINE

short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles.

Nurses, housekeepers, dietary workers, and hospital technicians struck the Summit Medical Center in Oakland, California, May 27. The workers — members of five different unions — are fighting for the right to honor one another's picket lines without the threat of victimization by the hospital. Strikers are also demanding that contracts with all unions at the hospital expire the same day. The 1,700 workers at Summit have been working without a contract since March.

The unions on strike include: California Nurses Association, Service Employees International Union Local 250, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 6, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 28, and Office and Professional Employees Local 28.

Summit Medical Center, which is one of only two private hospitals in Oakland that treats adults, was created out of a merger of Providence and Merritt-Peralta hospitals last September. Union contracts at both hospitals were different. Those at Providence protected unionists' right to strike in support of another union's demands. Strikers are now fighting to extend this right to workers at all facilities.

A May 28 rally in front of the hospital drew 300 people including

strikers and unionists from the post office, public transit, oil refineries, and elsewhere. AFL-CIO officials from Alameda and San Francisco counties also attended. A second strike rally was held May 29 where

Jesse Jackson spoke.

Strikers are maintaining large, spirited picket lines at many entrances to the giant hospital complex. They distribute pamphlets explaining the strike to patients and others who come to the hospital, and have a strike organizing center along the main street running through the area known as "Pill Hill." The number of patients admitted to the hospital has dropped since the strike began.

New Zealand textile workers return to work

After 11 weeks on the picket line, locked-out textile workers at Christchurch Carpet Yarns (CCY) in Christchurch, New Zealand,

voted 68-8 to return to work under the terms of a contract originally proposed by the company in mid-February.

The contract includes changes to pay rates for overtime and weekend work, as well as to shift allowances. It also contains a clause that allows the company to change any part of the contract at a month's notice. This was one of the main points of dispute in the strike. The workers fear the company will use this clause to cut their bonuses, which make up to half their weekly wages, and undermine other working conditions.

For 11 weeks the CCY workers staged a round-the-clock picket line. In its initial stages it was successful in stopping trucks from moving goods in and out of the factory, but police were soon mobilized to clear a path through the line.

During the lockout the company employed security and public relations firms against the workers. The picket line was violence-baited in the news media. The company also hired a number of "temporary" workers who, along with more than

40 workers who crossed early in the dispute, got some production going again.

In the latter stages of the dispute, solidarity began to grow in Christchurch and elsewhere for the locked-out workers. Meat workers, bus drivers, waterfront workers, seafarers, textile and garment workers, churches, and others donated money and food, and joined the picket line.

The locked-out workers voted to return to work at the recommendation of New Zealand Council of Trade Unions (CTU) president Ken Douglas. The CTU is a direct co-signer of the new contract and any future disputes related to it.

A number of former strikers explained that they were unhappy at having to vote to return to work, but they felt they had no real alternative. Faced with the prospect of some of their numbers trickling back to work in ones and twos as the dispute continued, they explained that it was better to return to work together, with their union and dignity intact.

The lockout was an important union-building experience for many of the workers. "We are still hanging together and live to fight another day," explained one former striker.

Northwest Airlines demands concessions

In a May 26 letter to its employees, Northwest Airlines said that without productivity and work rule concessions from its unions, it will not survive rapid consolidation in a "viciously price-competitive" airline industry. The letter goes on to state "that in the short term we cannot pay wages and benefits comparable to the big three." This is a reference to Delta, United, and American Airlines.

A few months earlier Northwest had received more than \$800 million in loan guarantees from the state of Minnesota and the Metropolitan Airport Commission in

Minneapolis for construction of a maintenance base and for operating capital. Northwest had threatened to pull its hub out of Minneapolis if the money was not approved, while assuring the public that it was in strong financial shape.

Northwest's demand for concessions prompted a wide-ranging discussion at the airline's Minneapolis hub. One ramp worker who had helped raise money for union members on strike against Eastern Airlines in 1989 and 1990 said, "This is Eastern Airlines part two. Whenever they start talking about concessions to beat the competition they really mean they are going to try to beat the hell out of us. They'll get concessions and lay us off anyway."

Few workers if any were enthused about the idea of giving anything back. Many ramp workers, cleaners, mechanics, and ticket agents who make up the 10,000-member local of the International Association of Machinists at the Minneapolis airport express pessimism about the chances of winning a fight against concessions.

They point to the defeats of the unions during the 1985-86 Hormel packinghouse strike; the 1992 Caterpillar strike; the closing of Eastern Airlines; and the fact that the government, courts, and cops are stacked against workers, as reasons why it is difficult to win a strike today. A part-time baggage handler stated, "The formula is: Ask for concessions. Force a strike. Fire all the workers. Hire scabs. Strike over."

Some discussions have centered around the struggles it took to build the unions during the 1930s, a time when jobs were scarce and most workers were unorganized.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Jim Altenger from San Francisco; Eugen Lepou from Christchurch, New Zealand; and Kip Hedges from Minneapolis.



Christchurch Carpet Yarns picket line in New Zealand. Cops cleared a path through the line to let strikebreakers through.

—LETTERS—

International campaign

At first, I, like Bill Sagel in Sharpsburg, Maryland, was perplexed by the SWP's presidential campaign globe-trotting until I remembered the SWP is building a workers' movement — not a "me first" American movement that says it is okay to exploit workers in other countries as long as American workers get a good deal. The SWP is building international worker solidarity which is what our collaborating Union Bureaucracy refuses to do—an injury to one worker, no matter where in the world, is an injury to all workers worldwide.

The collaborating Union Bureaucracy put its stamp of approval on the slaughter of tens of thousands of poor working people in Iraq who were under the thumb of a dictator. They have the audacity to label the working majority as just a "special interest group." They refuse to lead and they refuse to follow. Their only plan of action is an "eternal search for a friend in Congress." A big-business Congress.

I eagerly await the day when our fighting unionists tell the collaborating Union Bureaucracy to lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way.

I fully agree with the *Militant* that the Haitian people, all who want to come and for any reason, should be allowed to come to the United States. The number of people setting out to sea in those dinky little boats convinces me that the majority of the Haitian people fear they won't live long enough to starve to death.

I also agree with the *Militant* that all participants of the anti-police riot in Los Angeles should be freed.

To prosecute the people is to exonerate the cops. I feel that cop brutality against all working people is institutionalized, sanctioned by the big business government, and color coded to set examples.

Keep up the international campaign. If the socialist alternative is a "me first" alternative — it would be no better than the system it is campaigning to replace.

Carol Rogers
Grafton, West Virginia

World War II

In the June 5, 1992 issue of the *Militant*, in the section entitled, "25 and 50 years ago" your paper talks about Britain during the World War II years. Apparently, in the year 1942 huge sales of the Trotskyist newspaper, *Socialist Appeal*, were a sign that leftists in Britain were fed up with their country's "war effort."

This is typical (stereotypical is a more descriptive term) garbage coming from your paper. The fact is, Britain was fighting Hitler and the Nazis. Britain was being bombed night and day by the Nazi aggressors. The overwhelming majority of the British working class and Leftists, like the rest of the population, supported the war effort. To not support the war effort, for all those living in the real world, would mean capitulating to Hitler and the Nazis. No responsible Leftist would support capitulation and subjugation to Nazi aggressors.

Your paper's implication that the Leftists in Britain supported making peace with Hitler only serves to discredit your paper, your party, and most damaging of all, the entire

Socialist Movement in America (and I guess Britain too) today. The right wing loves to paint socialists as nothing more than irresponsible demagogues and it is stories such as these which add fuel to its fire.

R.S.
Bronx, New York

Antipolice riot?

The June 5 "Discussion With Our Readers" column refers to those who label the recent events in Los Angeles a rebellion as "some who call themselves socialists." This is a most unfortunate choice of words.

The implication is that those who do not accept the *Militant's* view of the events as an "anti-police riot" are not true socialists. But none of us socialists has a monopoly on truth, and there is certainly room in the socialist movement for differing interpretations of historical events. The constructive dialogue which is so crucial to the success of our movement is not advanced when we reject those supporters who disagree with us on such fine points.

Please accept this letter as the constructive criticism it is intended as. The paper is great, and I especially enjoy the Discussion column.

Thomas Kleven

Houston, Texas

Korean reunification

I am always proud to show and sell this paper to coworkers and on the street! The issues and events covered are of interest to all working people. The use of color and the list of prices internationally helps

make a good first impression on those I sell to.

Suggestions: 1) more *International Socialist Reviews* — "Origins of women's oppression," etc; 2) clarify the Socialist Workers Party's relationship with and analysis of the North Korean regime. The paper gives the impression that it is cozy with the North Korean regime, I'm afraid to say. Also an analysis of Korea might find that both regimes (North and South) would find reunification too destabilizing for their survival! Perhaps more on what is being said and projected by the popular forces for reunification. Also any lessons from reunification of Germany that apply to Korea.

W.W.
Willimantic, Connecticut

'Prison within a prison'

The inmates at the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix who were arrested for participating in a peaceful march honoring Malcolm X have been put inside the prison within the prison — the special housing unit where we are locked down 23 hours a day with one hour recreation in a 15 by 15 steel cage. We call this air time because anyone knows you can't have too much recreation in a space that small.

While were out for our air at the end of the recreation period an inmate who was not arrested for the Malcolm X march, but who was arrested for allegedly setting fire to a cell for which they have no proof, was carried off from the recreation cage in which he was held because he was trying to take a cup back in so that he might have water. He is

on the 17th day of a hunger strike. He was repeatedly banged on the chain link fence. The reason is because he hangs out with the Blacks from the Afrikan Cultural Workshop and he is an anglo and that's a no no.

Any letters urging them to stop this brutal treatment should be sent to warden Swinson. I myself am on the 11th day of my hunger strike and have been found guilty of participation in a group demonstration. The reason for this is that I'm eligible for parole this September after eight years in jail. So by finding workers guilty at this time it sets them up for almost a guaranteed denial of parole. That way they keep one more worker from getting out and working toward the people's state. They also said that most of us will be transferred. To this we say good because this way they keep the virus spreading that will one day lead to a victory of the people of this country.

Balagoon Moyenda
Phoenix, Arizona

(Editors' note: An article on the situation at the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix, Arizona, appeared in the June 12, 1992, *Militant*)

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Refugees fleeing war in Yugoslavia face growing restrictions in Sweden

BY BIRGITTA ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Since July of 1991, approximately 37,500 refugees, mostly from Yugoslavia, have come to Sweden. More than 1,000 refugees are arriving each week. Many are ethnic Albanians from the region of Kosovo in Serbia.

Swedish authorities are setting up tent camps for the refugees, claiming that there is a shortage of housing facilities. The last time camps were set up was in 1989, when the government officials said they could not accept Turkish refugees from Bulgaria.

Since then the government has established measures that sharply restrict the rights of refugees to stay in Sweden. Fleeing a war is no longer sufficient reason to be granted asylum, they say. These people are not considered "pure" political refugees.

This policy has been applied to the Yugoslav refugees. While the Swedish government will not send refugees back as long as fighting continues, those from Macedonia

and Slovenia have been thrown out of the country.

The 1989 government decision was part of increasing attacks on immigrants, who are made scapegoats by politicians and in the news media for the problems facing capitalism in Sweden. Hostility promoted against immigrants has led to more phys-

ical attacks on them, including a series of shootings this past winter.

In response, workers and young people have organized protests condemning the attacks on immigrants and opposing restrictions on refugees entering Sweden.

In a May 13 debate in parliament, Bert Karlsson, leader of the New Democracy

Party, said that those arriving from Yugoslavia were tourists. Making assertions that went unanswered, Karlsson said that 90 percent of all refugees come from areas where there is no war going on. He claimed, "These are organized charter travels, where people are picked up by different bus companies. We must send back Kosovo-Albanians, as they will be sent back sooner or later anyway."



Fleeing war in Bosnia. More than 1,000 Yugoslav refugees a week arrive in Sweden.

Meatpackers at Wilson Foods approve contract

BY SARA LOBMAN
AND MITCHELL ROSENBERG

CHEROKEE, Iowa — A three-week strike by members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union at four Wilson Foods plants in Indiana, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Alabama, ended when workers approved a contract May 23.

Before the strike, Wilson Foods demanded major health benefit cuts including a 500 percent increase in prescription costs, steep increases in deductible and out-of-pocket expenses for insurance, and cuts in pensions. The company's proposed 25-cent-an-hour pay increase over three years did not restore the \$10.69 hourly wage that workers made in 1983. The current base rate is \$9.10 an hour.

Features of the new contract include a 60 cent wage increase during the three-year agreement and a \$200 signing bonus. Workers will lose a 20-cent-an-hour, end-of-year bonus. Most other health and retirement benefits will be unchanged from the previous agreement.

The contract was approved by Local 179 members in Cherokee by a 374-55 vote. Some workers who voted for the contract said they thought they could have won more. In Logansport, Indiana, workers voted 431-361 to approve the agreement. Two smaller locals in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Birmingham, Alabama, also approved the contract.

Union officials called for a vote for the new agreement. "This is not a concession contract," said Local 179 president Matt Chase.

"We know that it was as good as we could get at this time," said Ron Libolt, a union negotiator.

"We didn't gain anything back," said Kathy Williams, a worker with 16 years in the plant.

The new contract is "better than what they were trying to stuff down our throats," said Frank Krueger. "We could have done better if we'd stayed out longer."

Sara Lobman is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431 and works at the Monfort packinghouse in Des Moines, Iowa. Mitchell Rosenberg is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 and works at the IBP packinghouse in Perry, Iowa.

Racist leader charged with assaulting student

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

MINNEAPOLIS — Tom David, a fascist-minded University of Minnesota senior who has been trying to organize a White Student Union on campus was arraigned in Hennepin County District Court June 2 on charges stemming from a February attack on an antiracist activist.

David pleaded "not guilty" to three charges: unauthorized use of a tear gas compound, fifth-degree assault, and disorderly conduct. All three charges are misdemeanors and each carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and a \$700 fine. The court set a trial date of July 17.

Eight activists who have been involved in organizing mass protests against the White Student Union and university recognition of the group attended the arraignment, including Martin O'Conner, the victim of David's attack. Several of the activists are members of a campus group called Anti-Racist Action.

A criminal complaint filed against David explains that David was asked to leave a February 8 meeting organized by Anti-Racist Action. Two group members escorted David out of Coffman Memorial Union where the meeting was taking place and watched him cross the street.

A friend of David's then struck antiracist activist Martin O'Conner on the back of the neck with a closed fist. David then ran back across the street and sprayed O'Conner in the face with tear gas.

When asked to comment on the charges by the campus newspaper, the *Minnesota Daily*, David said, "I like a good fight wherever it is. However, I didn't attack anyone. They attacked me."

A half dozen youth attending the arraignment hearing are prepared to testify as eyewitnesses at the trial that David is lying and that his vicious assault on O'Conner was completely unprovoked.

This isn't the first time David or his thugs have physically assaulted students who oppose his white supremacist dema-

gogy. But it is the first time that charges have been brought and a trial scheduled against a White Student Union supporter.

Following the hearing, O'Conner said, "I guess the only thing I'm asking is that he not get away with this attack on me — because it's not just me — he could do this to other people. Spraying tear gas in my face is a small example of David's ideas in action."

Chris Nisan, the Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in Minnesota's 5th District and one of the organizers of protests against the White Student Union over the

last year, attended the hearing to show his solidarity with O'Conner.

"We need to make an example out of Tom David," said the socialist candidate. "We should press for a conviction and the maximum penalty possible under the law. My campaign is eager to work with as many other forces as possible to see David do jail time for his criminal conduct."

O'Conner is urging supporters of democratic rights to attend the July 17 trial. It begins at 9:15 a.m. at the Hennepin County Government Center.

Puerto Rican independence fighters sentenced to five-year jail terms

BY TIM CRAINE

BRIDGEPORT, Connecticut — On May 13, federal district court judge T.F. Gilroy Daly sentenced two Puerto Rican independence fighters, Orlando González Claudio and Hilton Fernández Diamante, to five-year prison sentences.

González and Fernández, members of the group known as the Hartford 15, had pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to transport money stolen in a 1983 robbery. Earlier in May two other defendants, Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and Yvonne Meléndez Carrión, were convicted by a jury in the same courtroom.

In handing down the maximum sentence, Daly also sentenced them to five years probation on a related charge, to be served after their jail term. Both González and Fernández have already served 16 months in jail when they were denied bail following their arrests in 1985.

In a presentencing memorandum to the court, U.S. district attorney John Danaher alleged that the defendants had participated in terrorist acts against U.S. military installations in Puerto Rico in the early 1980s. None of the Hartford 15, however, has ever

been charged in these incidents.

In a statement to the court González declared, "I have in fact admitted that as someone who struggles for the independence of Puerto Rico I had to break the laws of the empire. In the same way, I should point out that the government of the United States, in spite of its pretense of democracy, violates its own constitution and international law when it denies recognition of the right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and independence."

In his statement to the court, Fernández stated that he and other members of the Hartford 15 consider themselves political prisoners. "In principle, we don't recognize the authority of this court," he said, adding that, given Puerto Rico's colonial status, only an international court of law would have the right to judge them. He and several other defendants, however, had agreed to "accept responsibility for violating U.S. law" as part of a plea bargain with the prosecution.

The plea bargain agreement represented no sacrifice of political principle, he stated. "Puerto Rico will be free, whatever it costs. The struggle continues."